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石ノ森章太郎萬画大全集
ISHInoMORI SHOTARO COMPLETE COMIC WORKS

リュウの道 8
THE WAY OF RYU

石森章太郎 ISHIMORI SHOTARO

Kadokawa Comics 角川書店
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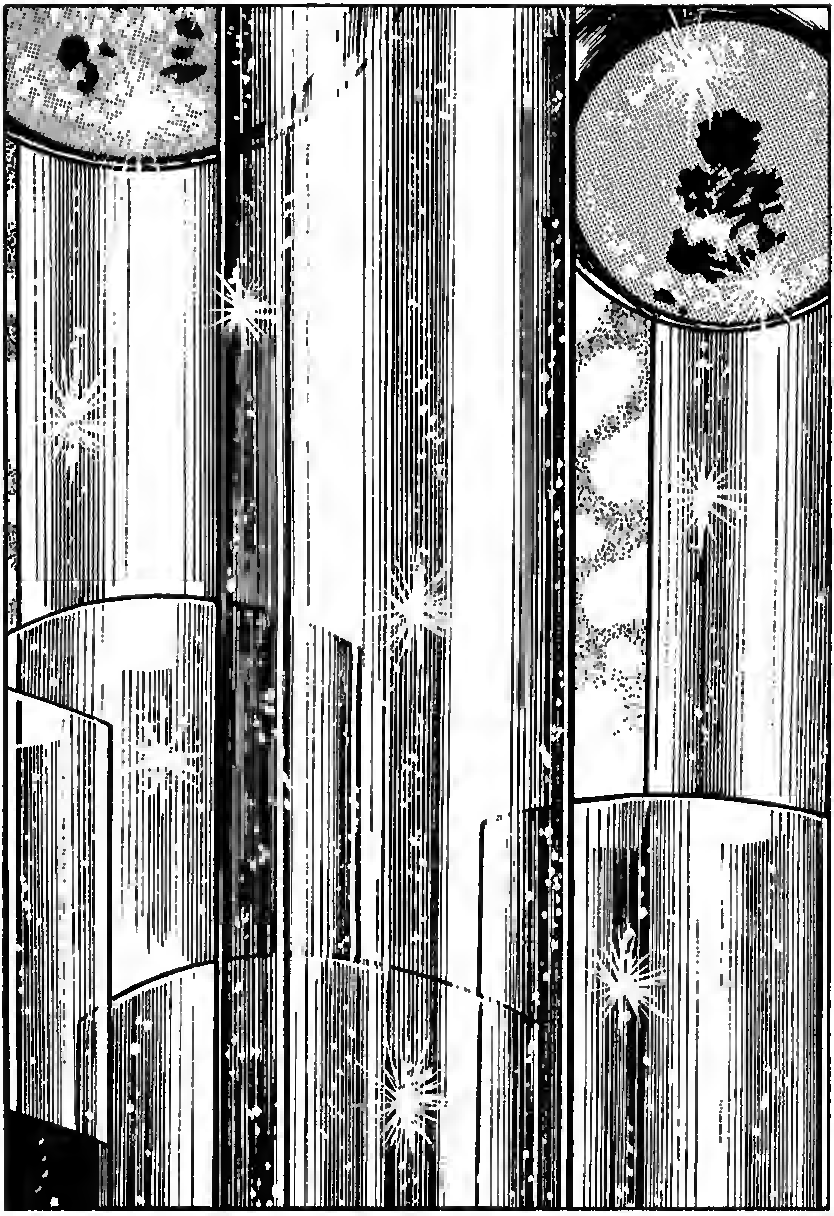
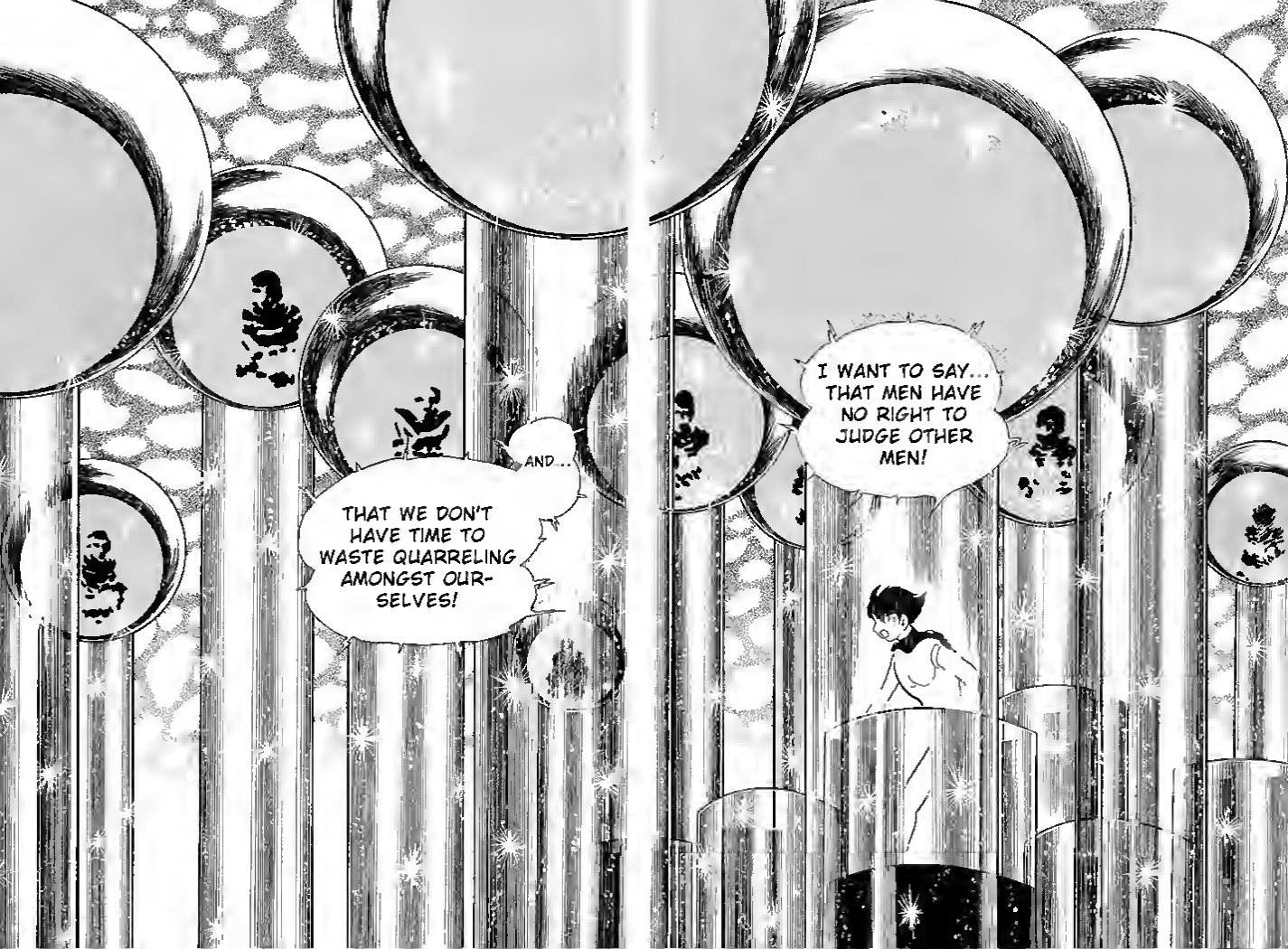
⑤未来を支配するもの(承前)



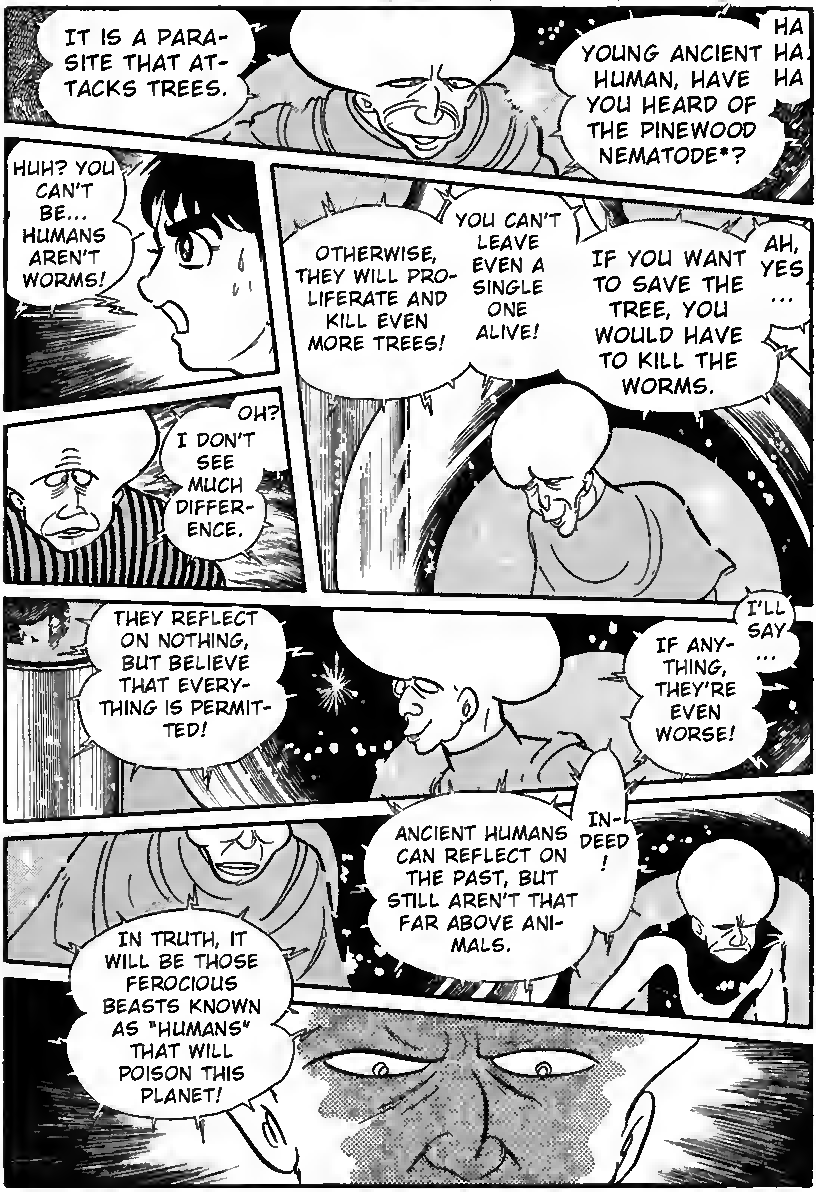

AND...
THAT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE QUARRELING AMONGST OURSELVES!
I WANT TO SAY... THAT MEN HAVE NO RIGHT TO JUDGE OTHER MEN!

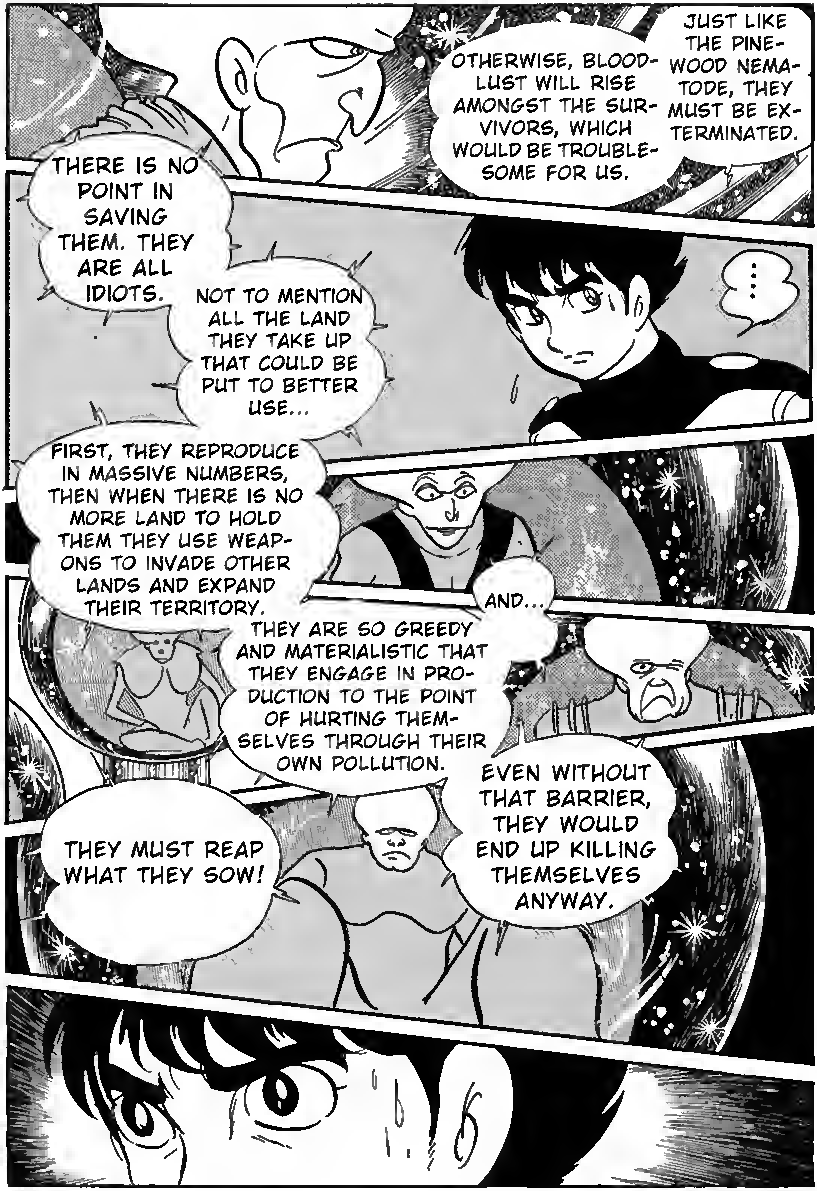
...
I HAVE A FEELING YOU CAN ALREADY TELL...
BUT OUR PLANE...
...AND ALL OF HUMANITY ARE IN GREAT DANGER BECAUSE OF THIS UNPRECEDENTED, LARGE-SCALE CATASTROPHE.

HUMANITY'S OWN FOOLISHNESS AND ARROGANCE ARE CERTAINLY TO BLAME, AT LEAST IN PART...
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE TIME TO DEBATE WHO'S AT FAULT!
WHETHER OLD OR NEW, WE AS HUMANS HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO SURVIVE AS A SINGLE SPECIES. A HUMAN SPECIES!
OR ELSE, WE'LL ALL VANISH!
TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS, WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER AND SEIZE THIS CHANCE! SEIZE THIS LAST BEST OPPORUNITY!
BUT YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE! KILLING OTHERS OF YOUR OWN SPECIES...
YOU'RE MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!

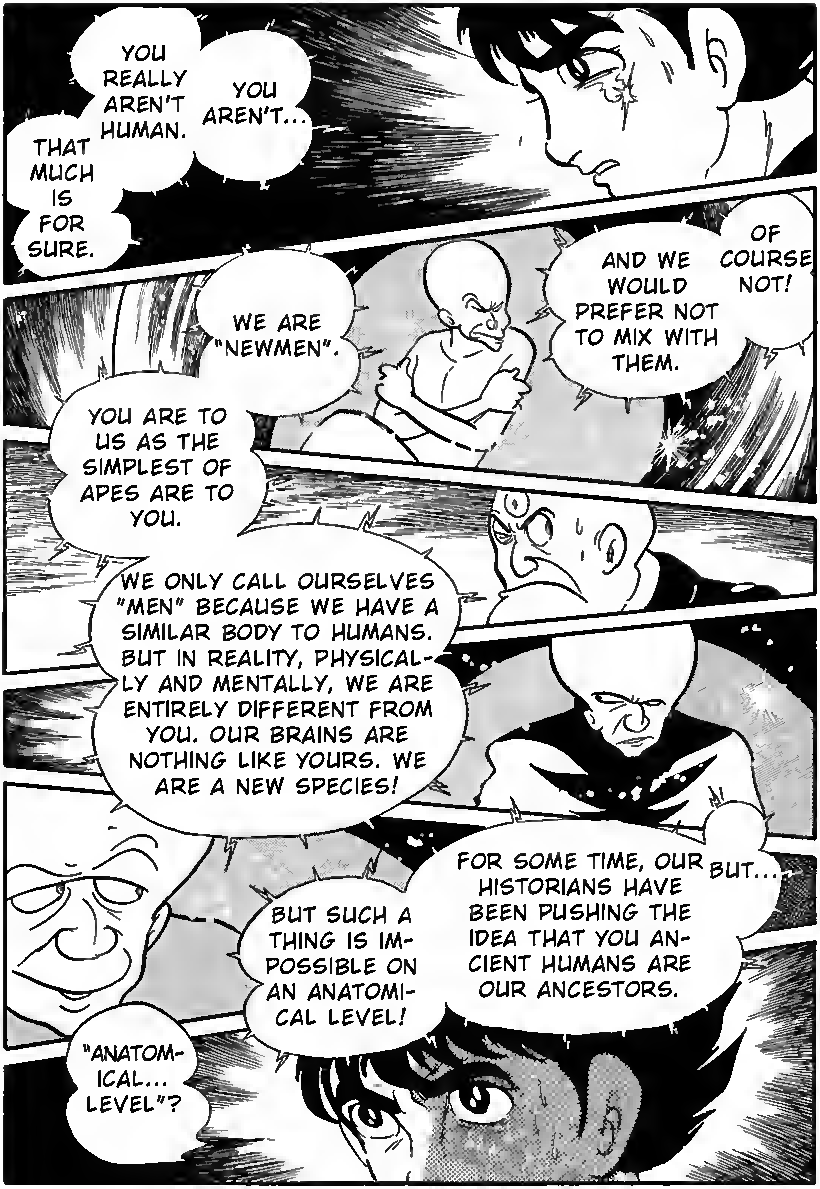
I DEMAND YOU TAKE DOWN THE BARRIER AROUND THE ISLAND OF JAPAN.
THESE PEOPLE ARE A VALUABLE RESOURCE!
YOU DON'T NEED TO KILL CIVILLIANS JUST BECAUSE OF THEIR LEADERS.
WHATEVER ACTS THEY MAY HAVE COMMITTED, EVEN IF THEY WERE ACTS OF WAR...
KILLING PEOPLE IS WRONG!
HA HA HA HA
OH HO HO
PFFT HA HA!
WHAT?
AS WE SPEAK...
PEOPLE ARE DYING!
INNOCENT MEN WOMEN AND CHILDREN, BY THE THOUSANDS...
...DYING FROM THE LEAD AND CADMIUM POLLUTING THE AIR! HOW CAN YOU LAUGH?
WHAT THE HELL IS SO FUNNY?

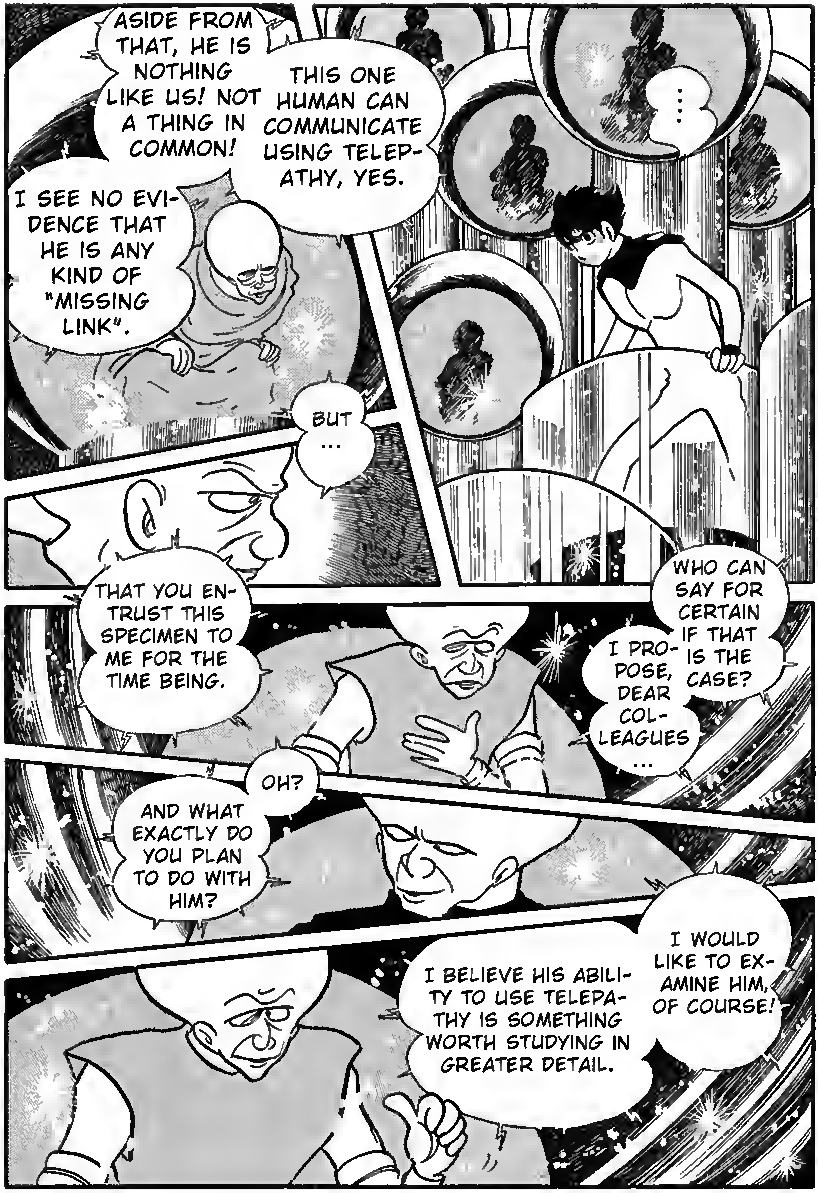
*HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/BURSAPHELENCHUS_XYLOPHILUS


HA HA HA
YOUNG ANCIENT HUMAN, HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE PINEWOOD NEMATODE*?
IT IS A PARASITE THAT ATTACKS TREES.
AH, YES ...
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE THE TREE, YOU WOULD HAVE TO KILL THE WORMS.
YOU CAN'T LEAVE EVEN A SINGLE ONE ALIVE!
OTHERWISE, THEY WILL PROLIFERATE AND KILL EVEN MORE TREES!
HUH? YOU CAN'T BE... HUMANS AREN'T WORMS!
OH? I DON'T SEE MUCH DIFFERENCE.
I'LL SAY ...
IF ANYTHING, THEY'RE EVEN WORSE!
THEY REFLECT ON NOTHING, BUT BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING IS PERMITTED!
INDEED!
ANCIENT HUMANS CAN REFLECT ON THE PAST, BUT STILL AREN'T THAT FAR ABOVE ANIMALS.
IN TRUTH, IT WILL BE THOSE FEROCIOUS BEASTS KNOWN AS "HUMANS" THAT WILL POISON THIS PLANET!

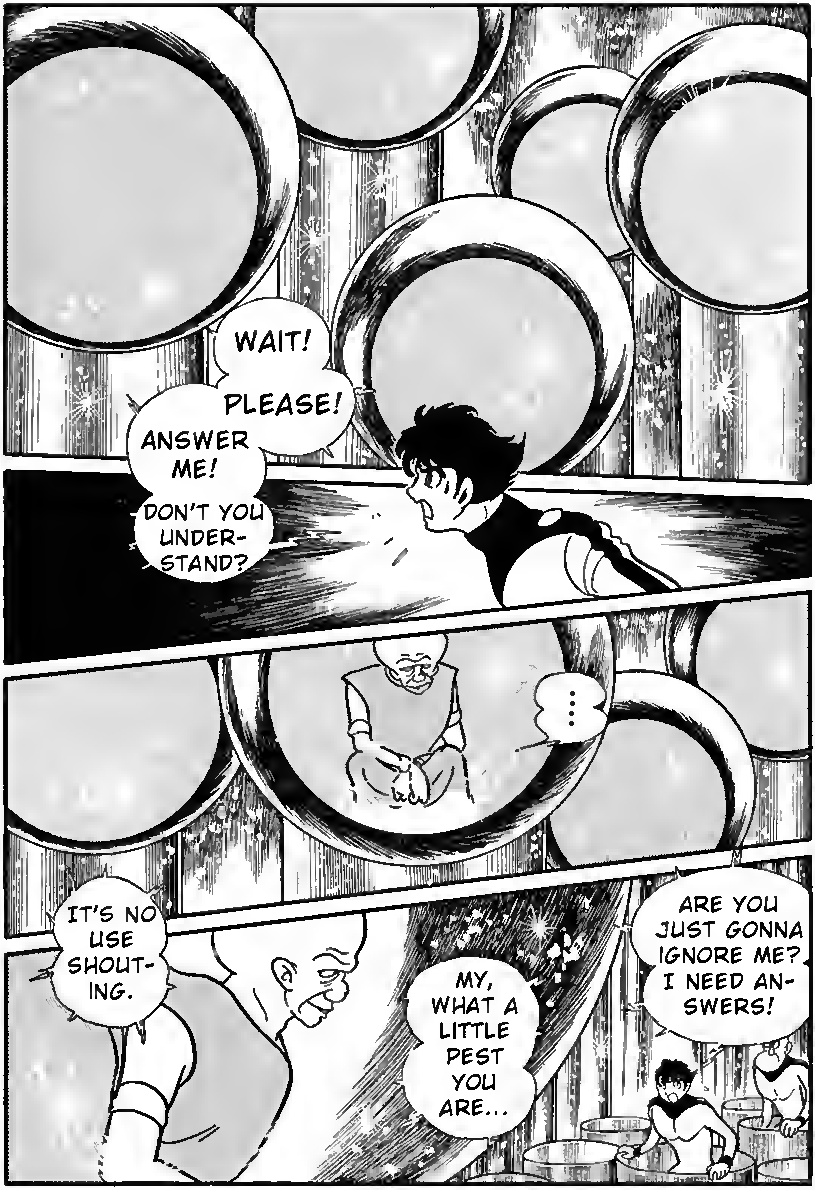

JUST LIKE THE PINE-WOOD NEMATODE, THEY MUST BE EXTERMINATED.
OTHERWISE, BLOODLUST WILL RISE AMONGST THE SURVIVORS, WHICH WOULD BE TROUBLESOME FOR US.
THERE IS NO POINT IN SAVING THEM. THEY ARE ALL IDIOTS.
NOT TO MENTION ALL THE LAND THEY TAKE UP THAT COULD BE PUT TO BETTER USE...
...
FIRST, THEY REPRODUCE IN MASSIVE NUMBERS, THEN WHEN THERE IS NO MORE LAND TO HOLD THEM THEY USE WEAPONS TO INVADE OTHER LANDS AND EXPAND THEIR TERRITORY.
AND...
THEY ARE SO GREEDY AND MATERIALISTIC THAT THEY ENGAGE IN PRODUCTION TO THE POINT OF HURTING THEMSELVES THROUGH THEIR OWN POLLUTION.
EVEN WITHOUT THAT BARRIER, THEY WOULD END UP KILLING THEMSELVES ANYWAY.
THEY MUST REAP WHAT THEY SOW!

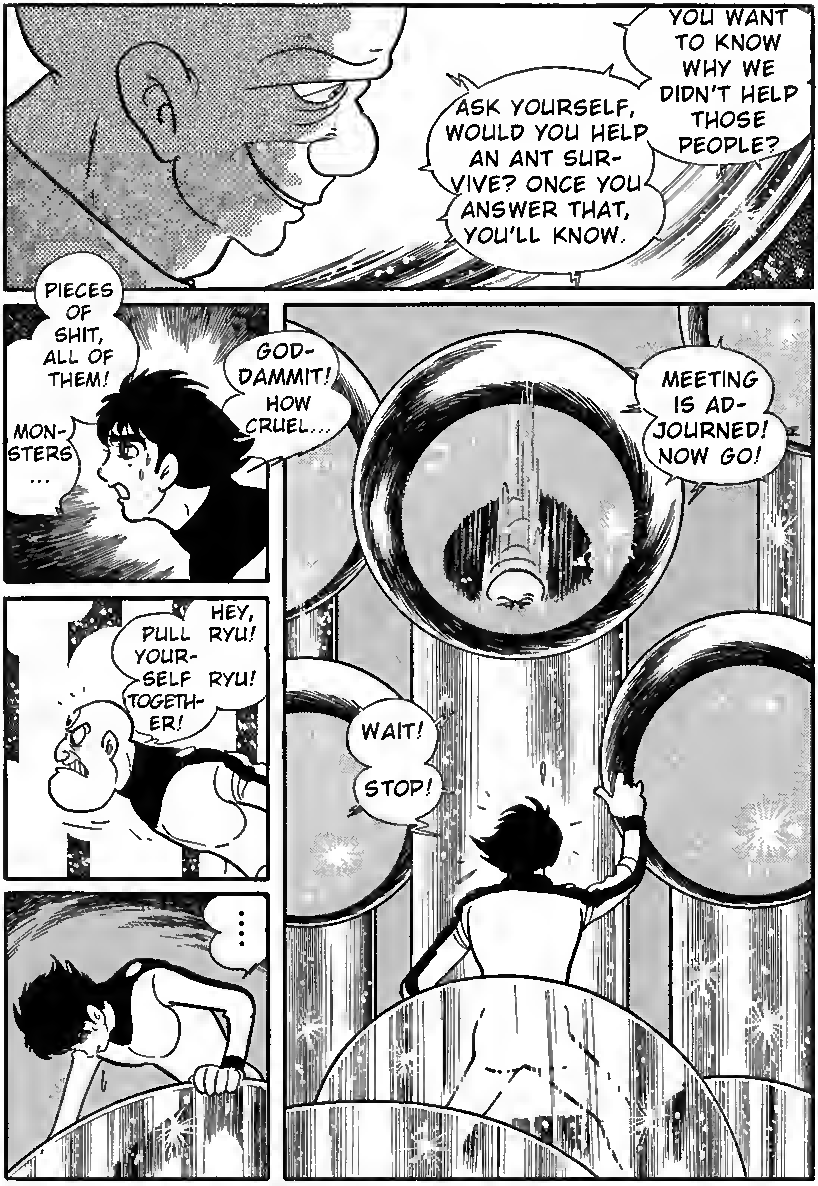
ARE YOU REALLY ALL SO SOULLESS?
IF YOU KNEW THIS WAS COMING, WHY DIDN'T YOU WARN THEM?
WHY COULDN'T YOU TEACH THEM HOW TO BE MORE PRODUCTIVE AND LESS WASTEFUL, OR HOW TO GO ABOUT PLANNING A FAMILY? ANYTHING!
WHY WAS GOING TO WAR YOUR FIRST CHOICE WHEN YOU COULD'VE HELPED THEM INSTEAD?
IT'S NOT LIKE SUCH A THING WOULD BE HARD FOR YOU!
NOT AT ALL!
INSTEAD YOU'RE SITTING HERE WATCHING THEM DIE LIKE IT WAS SOME KIND OF SHOW! YOU WON'T LIFT A FINGER TO HELP THEM!

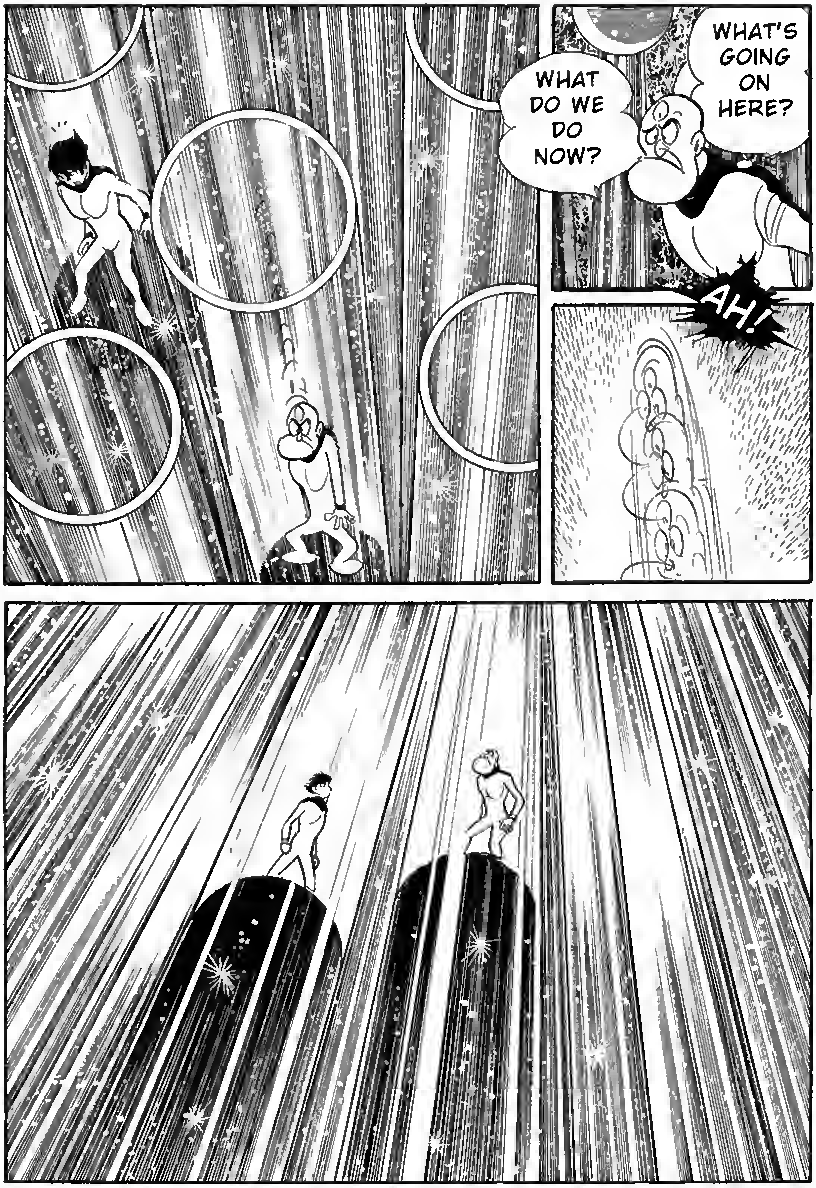

YOU REALLY AREN'T HUMAN.
YOU AREN'T...
THAT MUCH IS FOR SURE.
WE ARE "NEWMEN".
AND WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO MIX WITH THEM.
OF COURSE NOT!
YOU ARE TO US AS THE SIMPLEST OF APES ARE TO YOU.
WE ONLY CALL OURSELVES "MEN" BECAUSE WE HAVE A SIMILAR BODY TO HUMANS. BUT IN REALITY, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY, WE ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM YOU. OUR BRAINS ARE NOTHING LIKE YOURS. WE ARE A NEW SPECIES!
BUT....
FOR SOME TIME, OUR HISTORIANS HAVE BEEN PUSHING THE IDEA THAT YOU ANCIENT HUMANS ARE OUR ANCESTORS.
BUT SUCH A THING IS IMPOSSIBLE ON AN ANATOMICAL LEVEL!
"ANATOMICAL... LEVEL"?

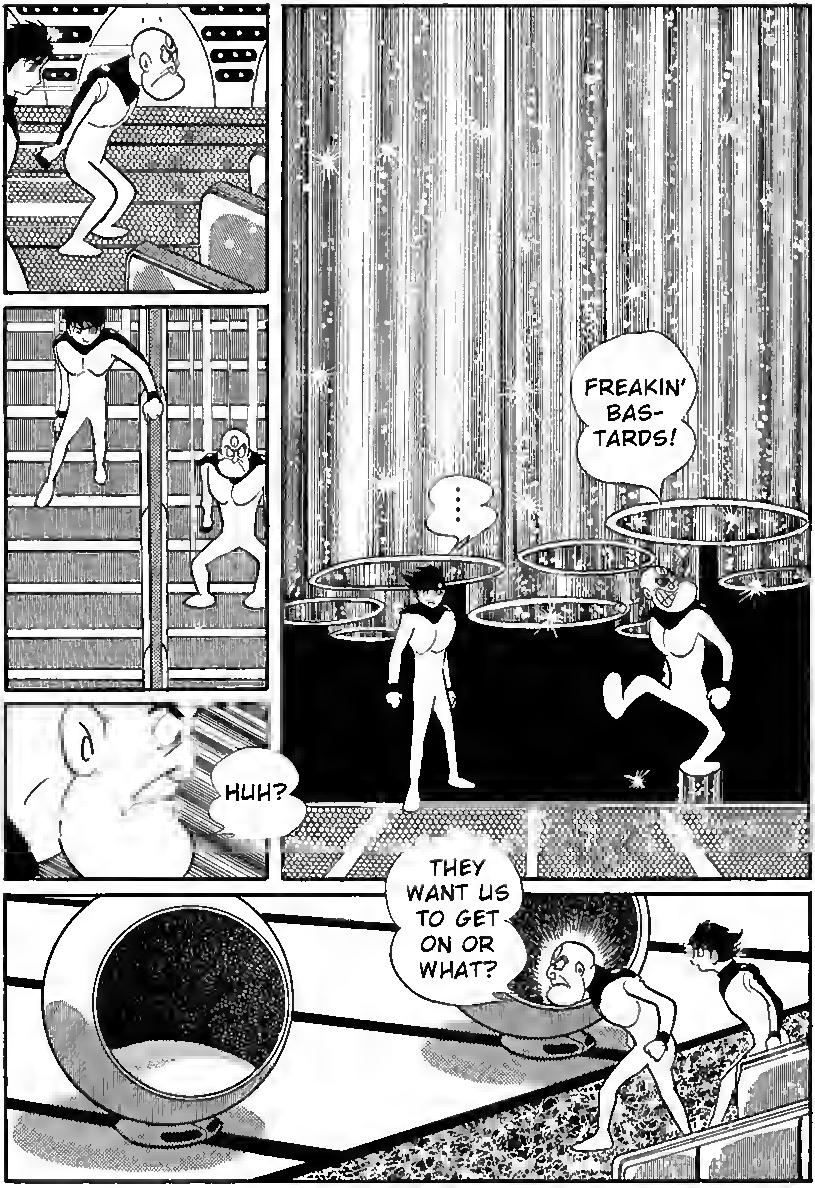

ASIDE FROM THAT, HE IS NOTHING LIKE US! NOT A THING IN COMMON!
THIS ONE HUMAN CAN COMMUNICATE USING TELEPATHY, YES.
I SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT HE IS ANY KIND OF "MISSING LINK".
BUT ...
THAT YOU ENTRUST THIS SPECIMEN TO ME FOR THE TIME BEING.
WHO CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN IF THAT IS THE CASE?
I PROPOSE, DEAR COLLEAGUES ...
OH?
AND WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH HIM?
I BELIEVE HIS ABILITY TO USE TELEPATHY IS SOMETHING WORTH STUDYING IN GREATER DETAIL.
I WOULD LIKE TO EXAMINE HIM, OF COURSE!

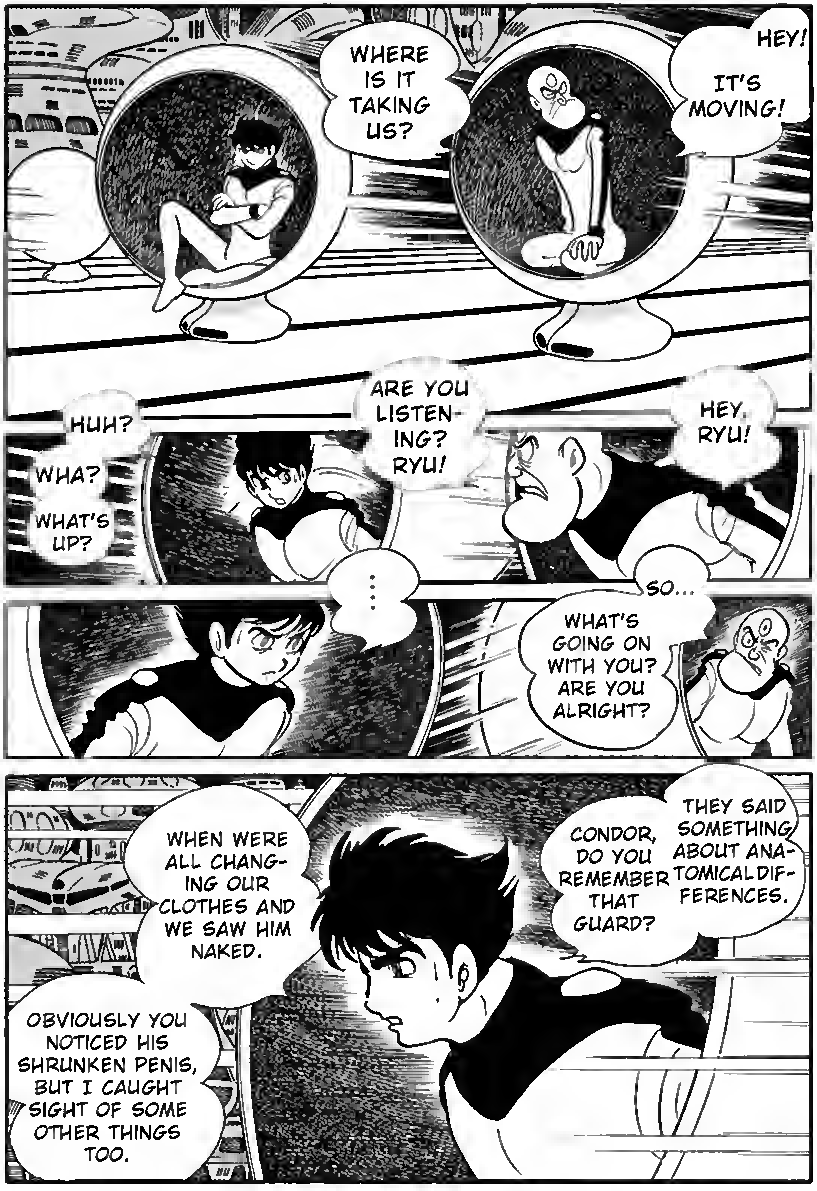
EH?
NOT THIS AGAIN.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
THIS ANCIENT HUMAN'S TELEPATHY IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ACCIDENTAL MUTATION.
THE DEFORMED WITH THE THIRD EYE CAN'T DO IT. AND HE'S FROM THE SAME PLACE.
BUT IF YOU TRULY WISH TO EXAMINE HIM, MR. HISTORIAN, THEN IT IS YOUR RIGHT TO DO SO.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THIS MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HAS COME TO A CLOSE.
WAIT!
YOU CAN'T CLOSE YET!
WHAT ABOUT THE BARRIER AROUND THE ISLAND OF JAPAN!
YOU'RE GONNA TAKE IT DOWN, RIGHT?


WAIT!
PLEASE!
ANSWER ME!
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
...
IT'S NO USE SHOUT-ING.
MY, WHAT A LITTLE PEST YOU ARE...
ARE YOU JUST GONNA IGNORE ME? I NEED AN-SWERS!

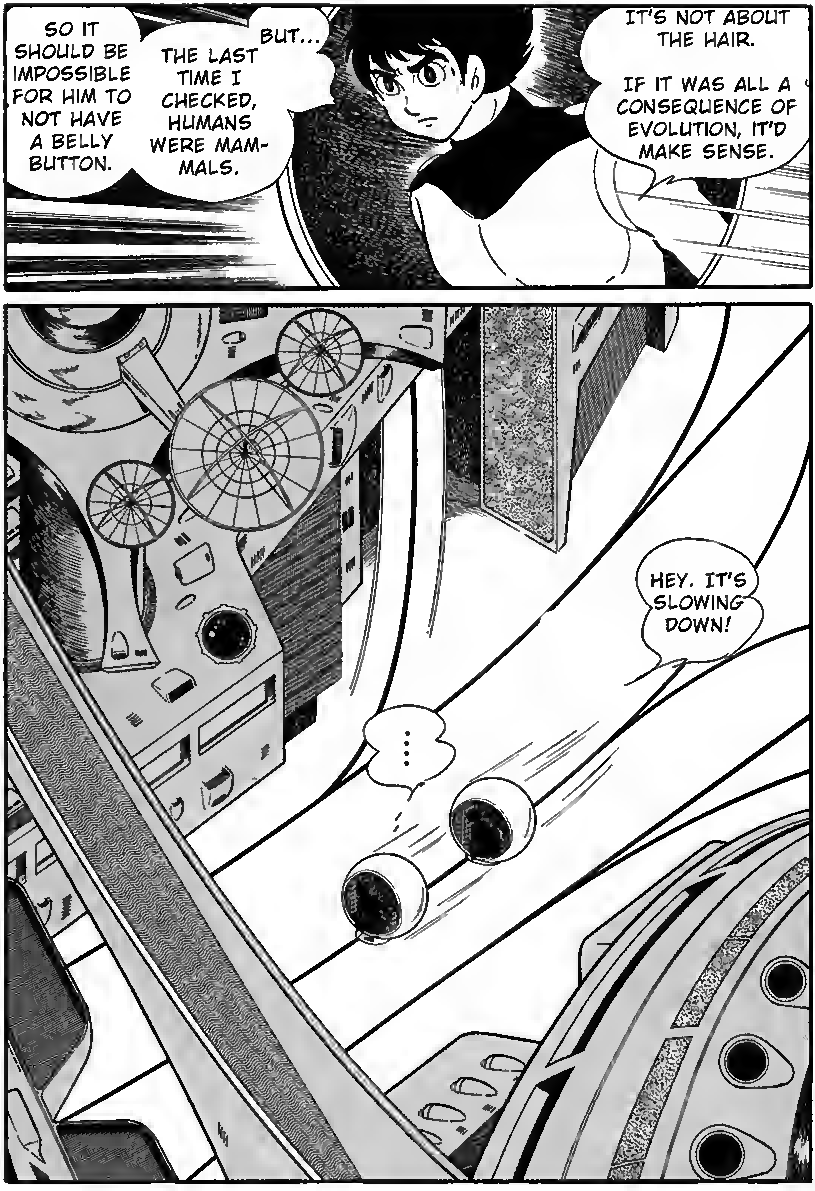

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY WE DIDN'T HELP THOSE PEOPLE?
ASK YOURSELF, WOULD YOU HELP AN ANT SURVIVE? ONCE YOU ANSWER THAT, YOU'LL KNOW.
PIECES OF SHIT, ALL OF THEM!
MONSTERS ...
GOD-DAMMIT! HOW CRUEL...
MEETING IS ADJOURNED! NOW GO!
WAIT!
STOP!
HEY, RYU! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
RYU!
...


WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
AH!

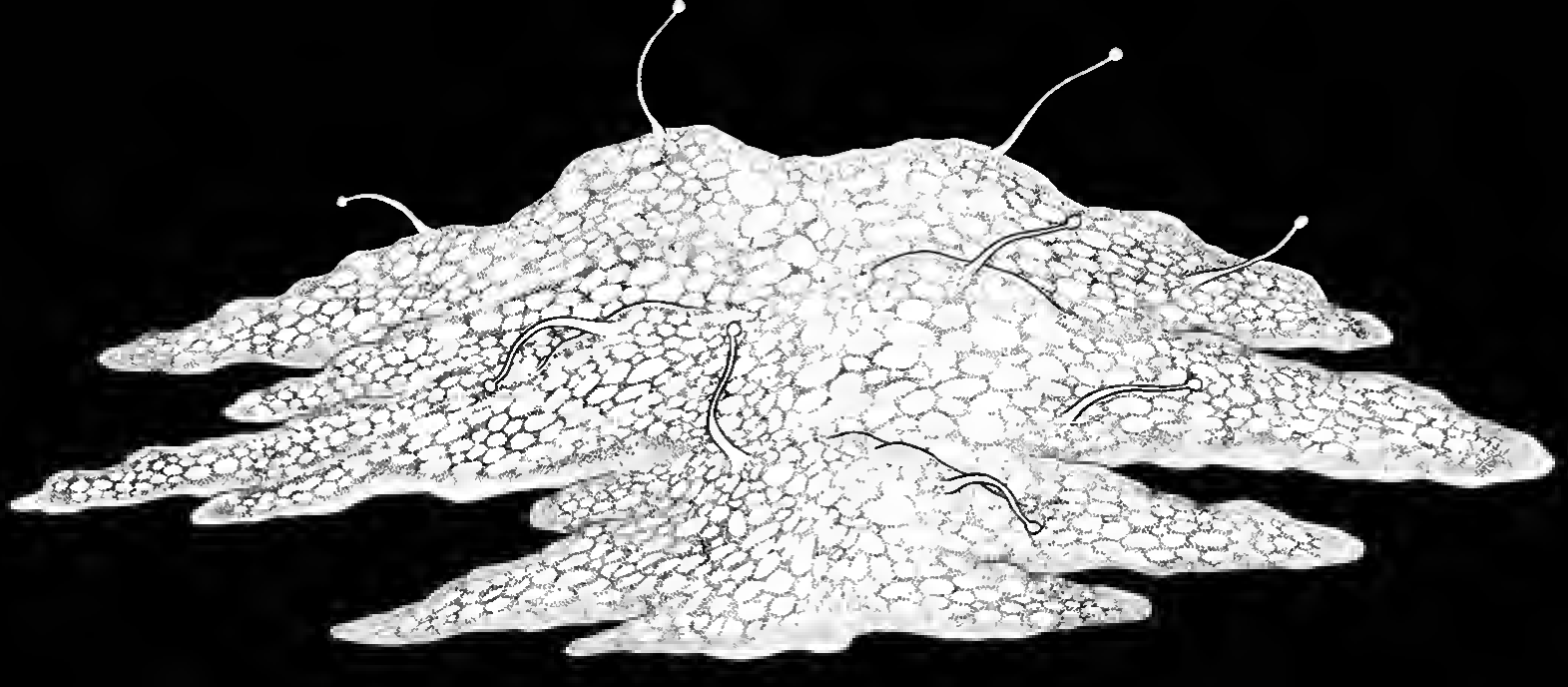

FREAKIN' BAS-TARDS!
.....
HUH?
THEY WANT US TO GET ON OR WHAT?

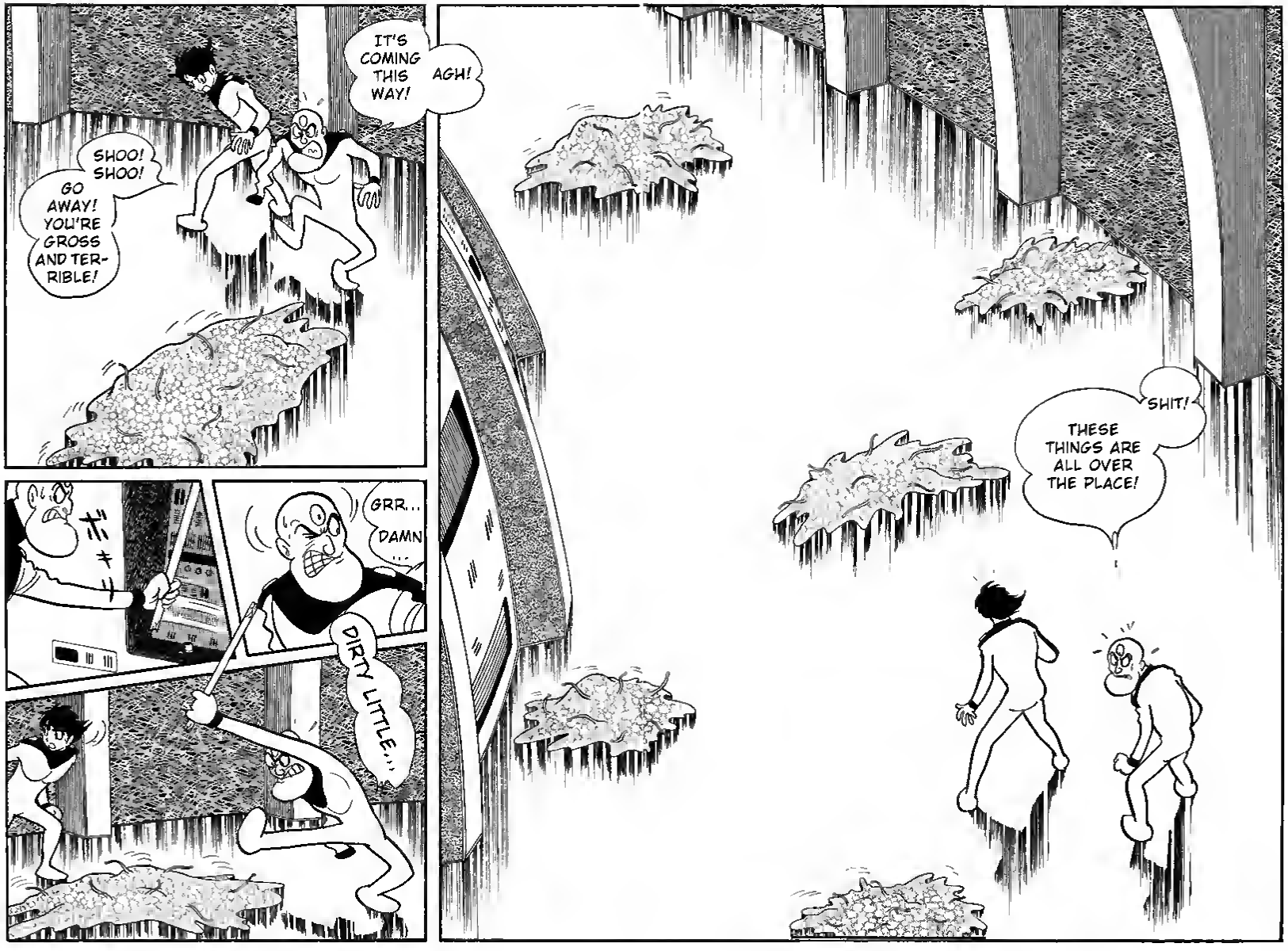

WHERE IS IT TAKING US?
HEY! IT'S MOVING!
HUH?
WHA?
WHAT'S UP?
ARE YOU LISTENING? RYU!
HEY, RYU!
...
SO...
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
WHEN WERE ALL CHANGING OUR CLOTHES AND WE SAW HIM NAKED.
CONDOR, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT GUARD?
THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT ANATOMICAL DIFFERENCES.
OBVIOUSLY YOU NOTICED HIS SHRUNKEN PENIS, BUT I CAUGHT SIGHT OF SOME OTHER THINGS TOO.

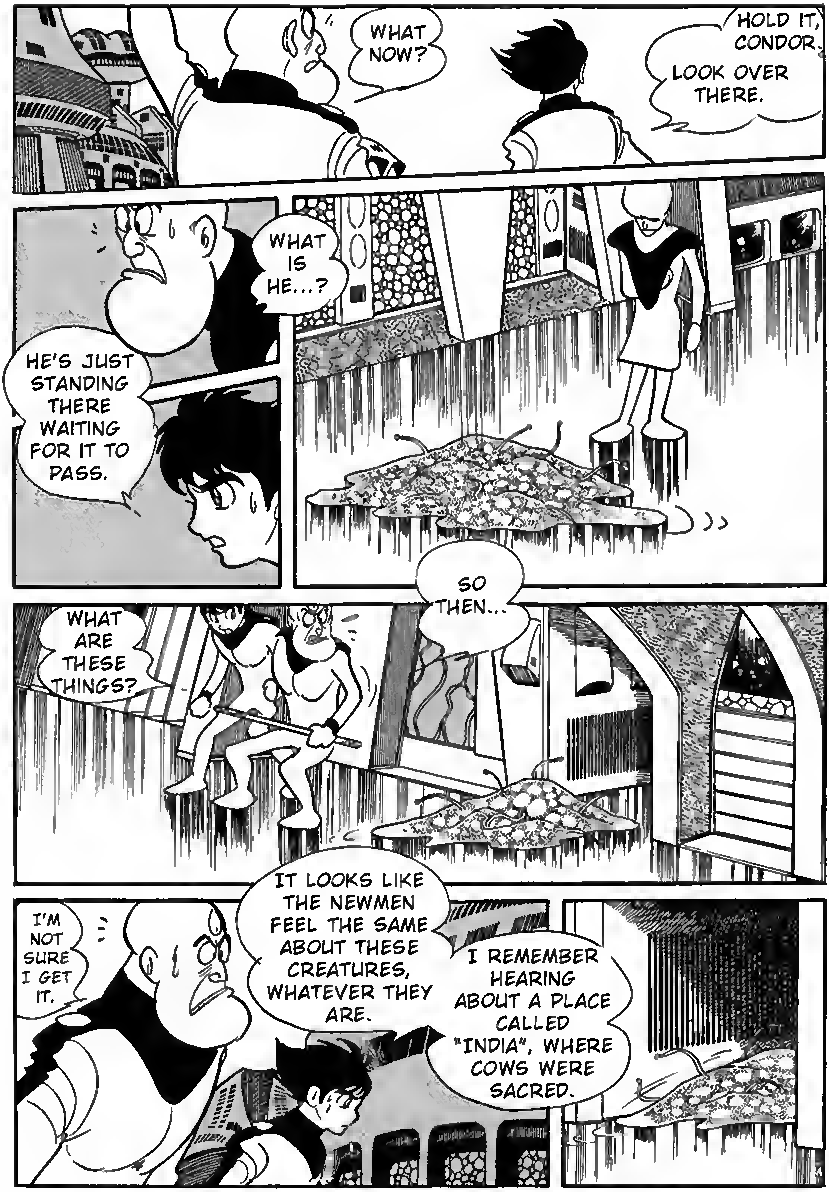
THE FIRST THING I NOTICED WAS THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FINGERNAILS!
A DISPROPORTIONATE SIZED HEAD, WITH NO HAIR...
AND HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A BELLY BUTTON!
HUH? REALLY? NO BELLY BUTTON?
I DON'T THINK I'M WRONG ABOUT THAT.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT ALL MEANS?
I MEAN, I DON'T HAVE ANY HAIR EITHER!


IT'S NOT ABOUT THE HAIR.
IF IT WAS ALL A CONSEQUENCE OF EVOLUTION, IT'D MAKE SENSE.
BUT...
THE LAST TIME I CHECKED, HUMANS WERE MAMMALS.
SO IT SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO NOT HAVE A BELLY BUTTON.
HEY. IT'S SLOWING DOWN!
...

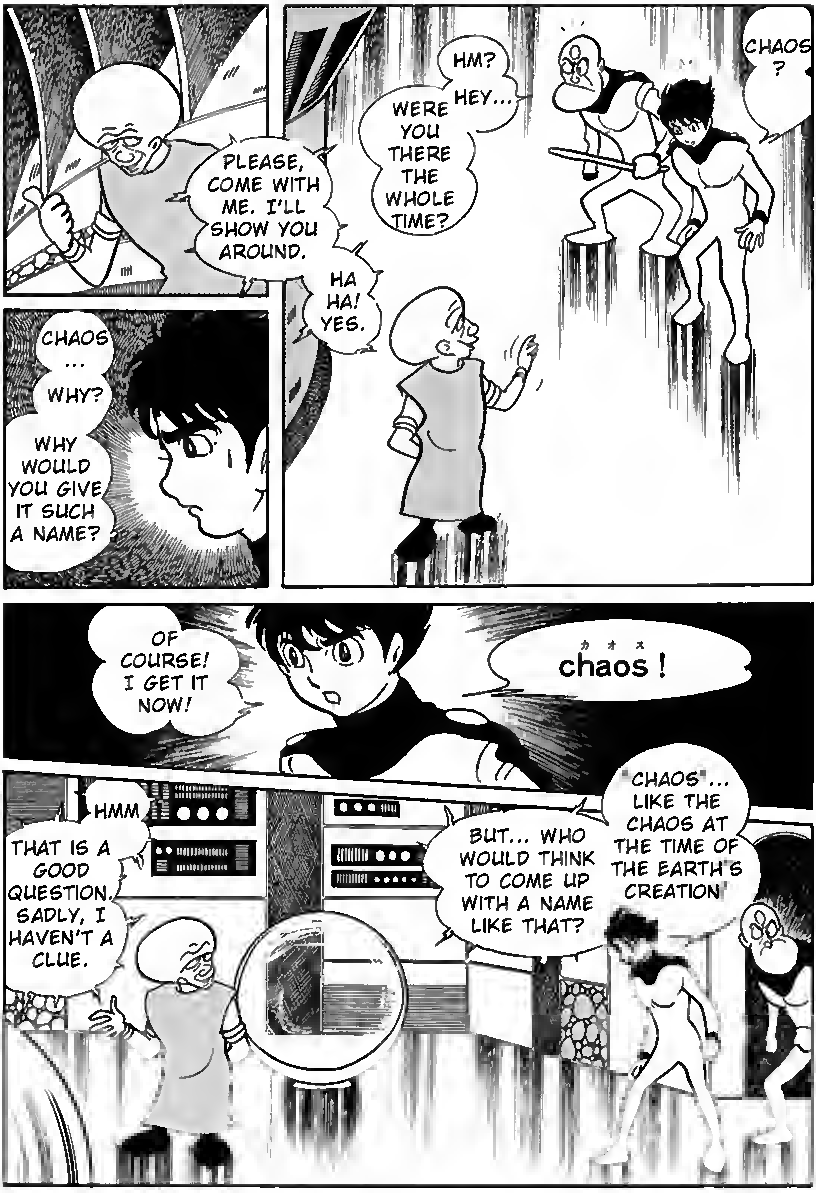
I GUESS IT MEANS THAT THE NEWMEN REALLY AREN'T HUMAN, JUST LIKE THEY SAID.
SO... WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE A BELLY BUTTON?
HUH?
WHAT THE?
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?

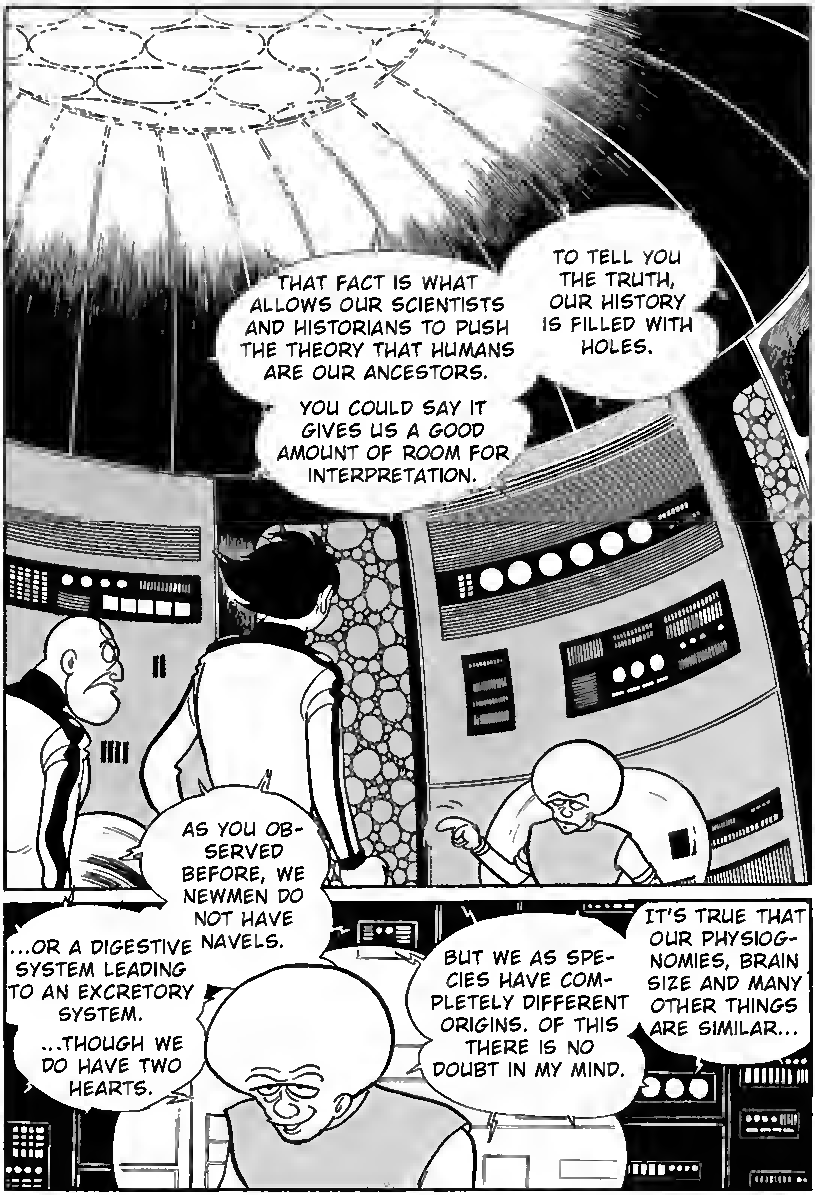



IT'S COMING THIS WAY!
AGH!
SHOO! SHOO!
GO AWAY! YOU'RE GROSS AND TERRIBLE!
ガキッ
GRR...
DAMN...
DIRTY LITTLE...
SHIT!
THESE THINGS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE!


WHAT NOW?
HOLD IT, CONDOR. LOOK OVER THERE.
WHAT IS HE...?
HE'S JUST STANDING THERE WAITING FOR IT TO PASS.
SO THEN...
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?
IT LOOKS LIKE THE NEWMEN FEEL THE SAME ABOUT THESE CREATURES, WHATEVER THEY ARE.
I'M NOT SURE I GET IT.
I REMEMBER HEARING ABOUT A PLACE CALLED "INDIA", WHERE COWS WERE SACRED.

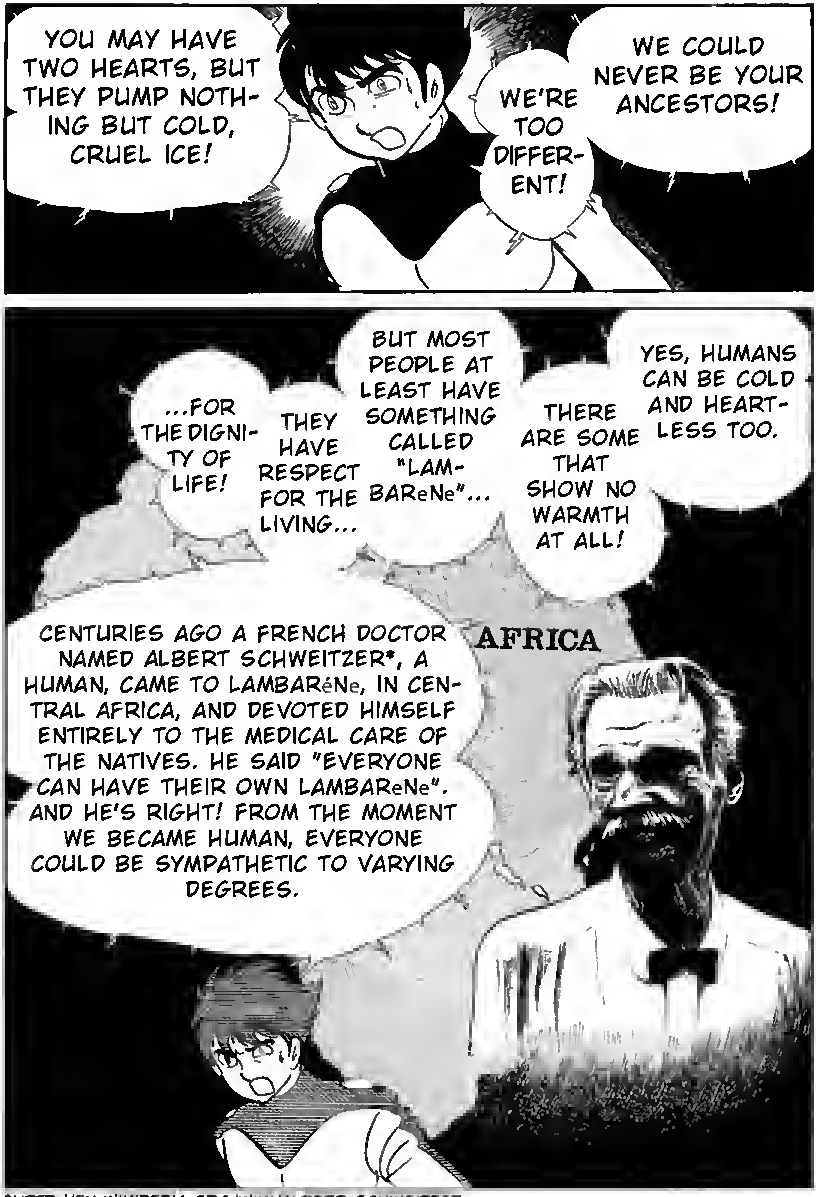
I'VE SEEN A LOT OF MUTATED ANIMALS IN THIS WORLD...
BUT THIS IS A NEW ONE TO ME.
ALL THE MUTANTS I'VE EVER SEEN ARE USUALLY ONLY DIFFERENT IN SMALL WAYS...
BUT THIS... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
WAIT!
WHAT IF...
WHAT IF THIS WEIRD CREATURE...
...WAS ACTUALLY FROM ANOTHER PLANET?
THAT'S IT ISN'T IT? IF THEY CAME FROM ANOTHER PLANET WITH THE NEWMEN...
THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY THEY HAVE NO BELLY BUTTONS!
BECAUSE THE NEWMEN ARE REALLY ALIENS FROM ANOTHER PLANET!
IT'S A BIT OF A STRETCH, BUT YOUR THEORY IS CERTAINLY INTERESTING!
HOWEVER, THERE'S NOTHING IN OUR HISTORICAL RECORDS TO SUPPORT SUCH A THING.
THESE ANIMALS ARE CALLED "CHAOS".
AND INDEED, THEY ARE SACRED TO US.


PLEASE, COME WITH ME. I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.
HA HA! YES.
HM? HEY... WERE YOU THERE THE WHOLE TIME?
CHAOS ?
CHAOS ... WHY? WHY WOULD YOU GIVE IT SUCH A NAME?
OF COURSE! I GET IT NOW!
chaos (カオス) !
"CHAOS"... LIKE THE CHAOS AT THE TIME OF THE EARTH'S CREATION
BUT... WHO WOULD THINK TO COME UP WITH A NAME LIKE THAT?
HMM THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION. SADLY, I HAVEN'T A CLUE.


TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, OUR HISTORY IS FILLED WITH HOLES.
THAT FACT IS WHAT ALLOWS OUR SCIENTISTS AND HISTORIANS TO PUSH THE THEORY THAT HUMANS ARE OUR ANCESTORS.
YOU COULD SAY IT GIVES US A GOOD AMOUNT OF ROOM FOR INTERPRETATION.
AS YOU OBSERVED BEFORE, WE NEWMEN DO NOT HAVE NAVELS.
...OR A DIGESTIVE SYSTEM LEADING TO AN EXCRETORY SYSTEM.
...THOUGH WE DO HAVE TWO HEARTS.
BUT WE AS SPECIES HAVE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ORIGINS. OF THIS THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND.
IT'S TRUE THAT OUR PHYSIOGNOMIES, BRAIN SIZE AND MANY OTHER THINGS ARE SIMILAR...

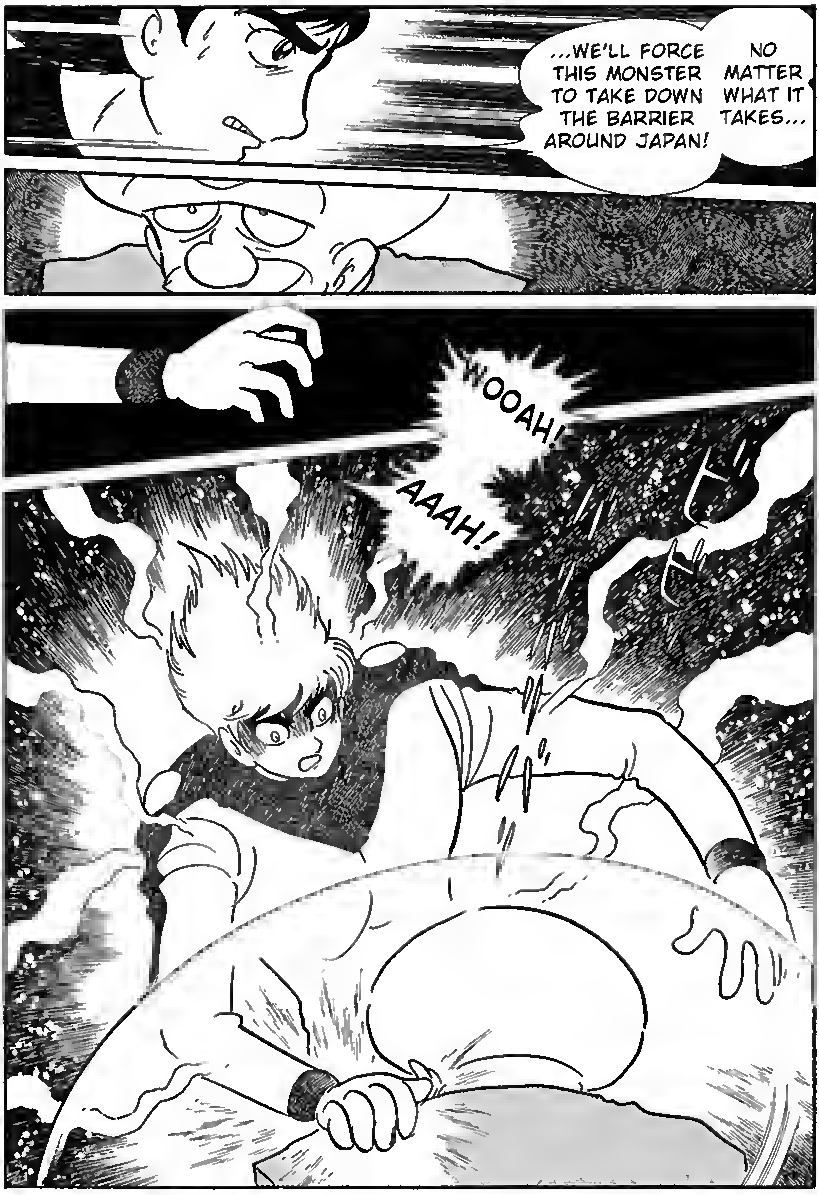
FOR THIS CONTROVERSIAL HYPOTHESIS TO BE AT ALL CREDIBLE, IT WOULD REQUIRE PROOF OF A CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR TWO SPECIES.
EVEN IF THERE'S NO CHANCE OF FINDING SUCH EVIDENCE...
YOU'RE JUST GONNA DISSECT US, IS THAT IT?
NOT EVEN GONNA OFFER US A DRINK, HUH?
OH, THAT REQUEST AGAIN?
YOU SHOULD JUST GIVE UP!
AS YOU HUMANS ARE A DISTINCT SPECIES FROM THE APES...
SO ARE WE NEWMEN FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM HUMANS!
THAT'S WHY...
WE NEWMEN CONSIDER OURSELVES A SEPARATE AND DISTINCT SPECIES.
AND SO IT HAS BEEN.
SO IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT A NEW THEORY THAT ARGUES THAT WE NEWMEN ARE DESCENDED FROM HUMANS WOULD RAISE A MASSIVE PUBLIC OUTCRY.

AND YOU BELIEVE THAT I MIGHT BE THIS "MISSING LINK", DON'T YOU?
I SEE...
IN OTHER WORDS, A "MISSING LINK"!
PARDON ME?
I'LL ASK AGAIN...
WILL YOU PLEASE TAKE DOWN THE BARRIER AROUND THE ISLAND OF JAPAN?
WE STILL INTEND TO PERFORM VARIOUS TESTS ON YOU.
I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST YOU!
HEARTLESS BASTARD!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT HUMANS AND NEWMEN CAN BE RELATED!
WELL...
I GUESS YOU HAVE YOUR ANSWER, THEN.
THE COUNCIL HAS MADE ITS DECISION.

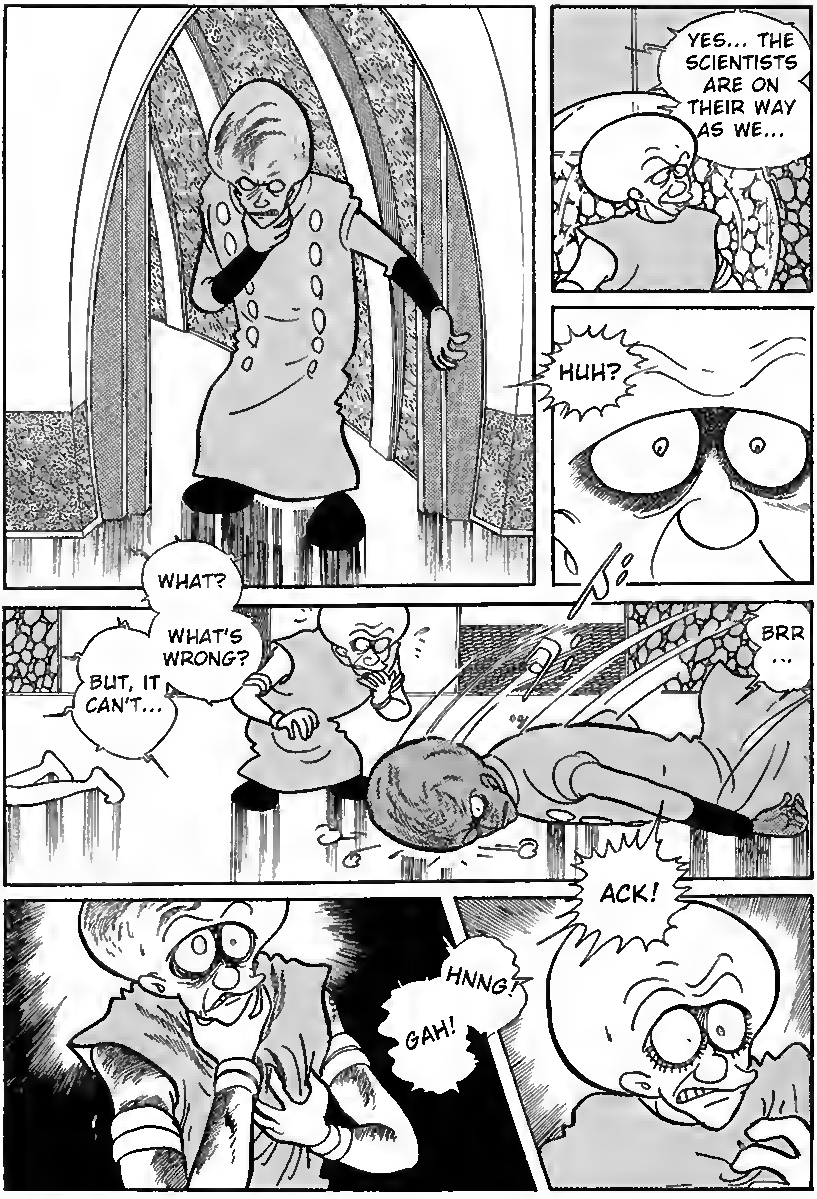

YOU MAY HAVE TWO HEARTS, BUT THEY PUMP NOTHING BUT COLD, CRUEL ICE!
WE'RE TOO DIFFERENT!
WE COULD NEVER BE YOUR ANCESTORS!
YES, HUMANS CAN BE COLD AND HEARTLESS TOO.
THERE ARE SOME THAT SHOW NO WARMTH AT ALL!
BUT MOST PEOPLE AT LEAST HAVE SOMETHING CALLED "LAMBARéNe"...
THEY HAVE RESPECT FOR THE LIVING...
...FOR THE DIGNITY OF LIFE!
AFRICA
CENTURIES AGO A FRENCH DOCTOR NAMED ALBERT SCHWEITZER*, A HUMAN, CAME TO LAMBARéNe, IN CENTRAL AFRICA, AND DEVOTED HIMSELF ENTIRELY TO THE MEDICAL CARE OF THE NATIVES. HE SAID "EVERYONE CAN HAVE THEIR OWN LAMBARéNe". AND HE'S RIGHT! FROM THE MOMENT WE BECAME HUMAN, EVERYONE COULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO VARYING DEGREES.

*HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/ALBERT_SCHWEITZER

ONE OF YOU TALKED ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE LIKE THEY WERE ANTS... BUT YOU ARE THE ANTS!
...YOU ARE NOT HUMAN!
BUT YOU HAVE NOTHING LIKE THAT! BECAUSE YOU...
I WOULD NEVER WANT TO BE YOUR DAMNED "MISSING LINK"!
I NEVER WANT TO BECOME A MONSTER LIKE YOU!
I AM HUMAN! AND I'M PROUD OF THAT!
YEAH? WHAT IS IT?
CONDOR!
SHIT! I CAN'T TAKE THIS...


NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES...
...WE'LL FORCE THIS MONSTER TO TAKE DOWN THE BARRIER AROUND JAPAN!
WOOAH!
AAAH!

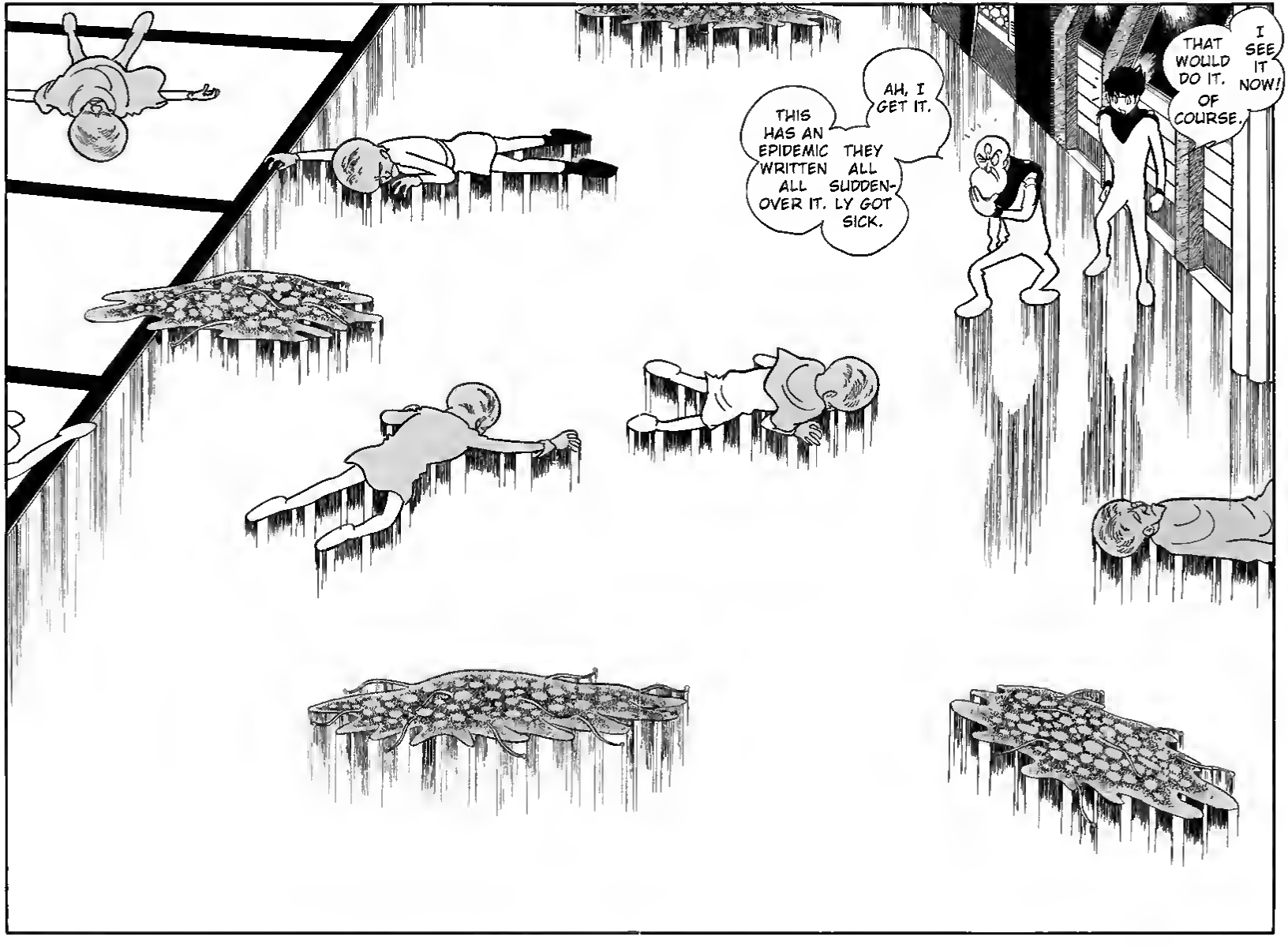
HUH-
OOF!
UGHH
HEH HEH HEH
HUMANS ARE SO PREDICT-ABLE...
WE ANTICIPATED YOU GETTING AGGRESSIVE.
DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD LET MYSELF BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY A COUPLE OF PRIMI-TIVES? IN THAT CASE...
...YOU REALLY ARE STUPID.
KHH...
I'M GOING TO START BY "DISSECT-ING" YOU, JUST AS YOU SO HELPFULLY SUGGESTED.
NOW, ONTO BUSI-NESS...


YES... THE SCIENTISTS ARE ON THEIR WAY AS WE...
HUH?
WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
BUT, IT CAN'T...
BRR ...
ACK!
HNNG!
GAH!

....
RYU, LOOK!
WE NEED TO GET OUTTA HERE!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED THERE, BUT THINGS HAVE TURNED AROUND FOR US.
I...
AND THEY'RE BOTH DEAD!
LOOK AT THEIR SKIN! IT WAS PINK BEFORE, BUT NOW IT'S ALL PURPLE!

WOAH!
HOLY SHIT! LOOK!
THESE "CHAOS" CREATURES ARE DEAD TOO!

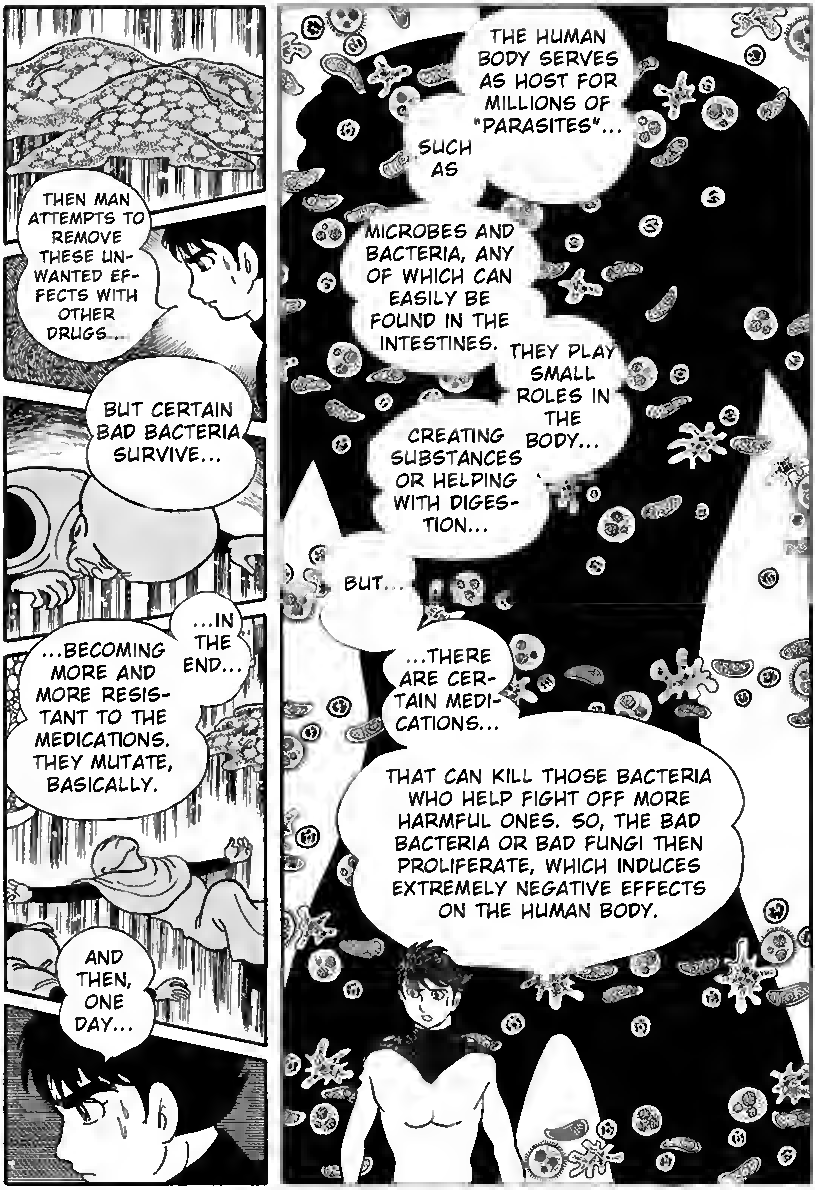
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASE...
BUT HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! ALL THE NEWMEN ARE DEAD!
THE NEWMEN CLEANED AND DISINFECTED EVERYTHING, EVEN DOWN TO THEIR OWN INSIDES!
LIKE IT WAS SOME KIND OF OBSESSION...
THAT'S IT!

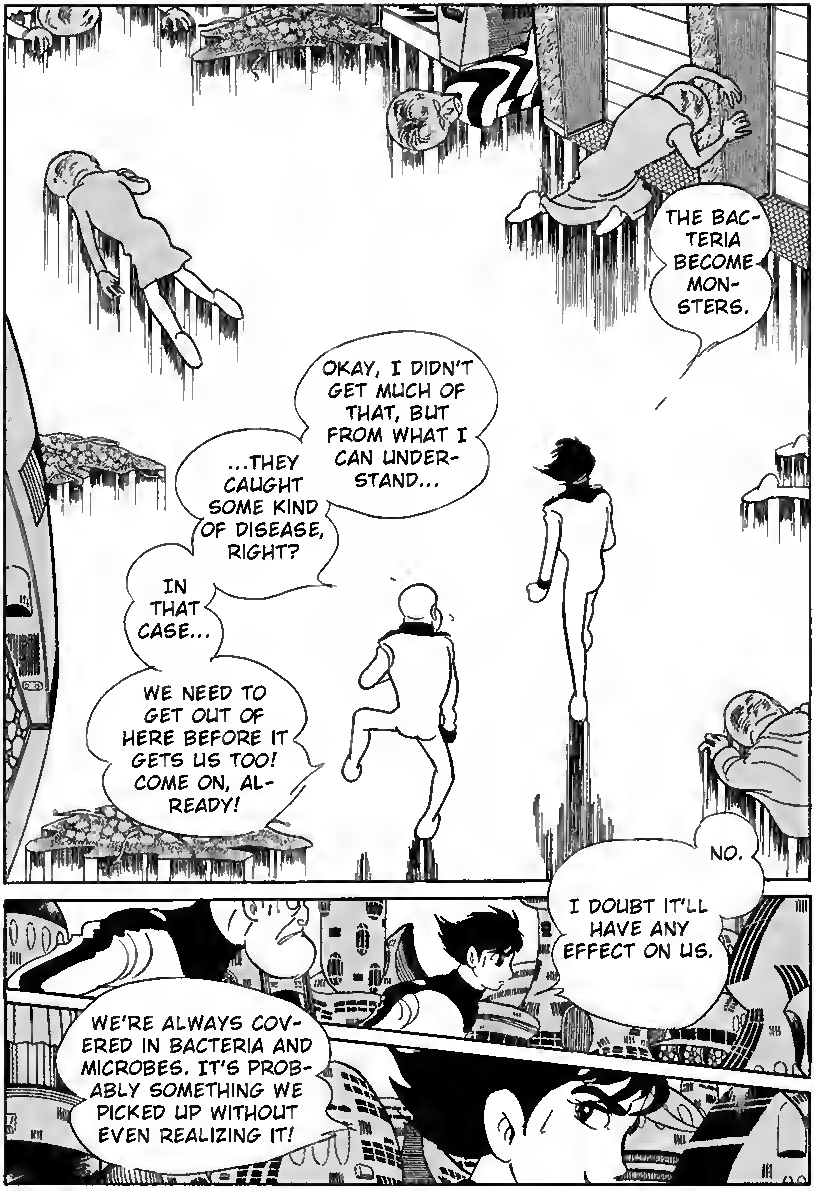

THIS HAS AN EPIDEMIC WRITTEN ALL OVER IT.
AH, I GET IT. THEY ALL SUDDENLY GOT SICK.
I SEE IT NOW! THAT WOULD DO IT. OF COURSE.

...
WE GOTTA GET OUT!
OR WE COULD GET SICK TOO!
WAIT.
RYU?
DID YOU SAY "OF COURSE"?
DO YOU KNOW SOME-THING?
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...
THEY FINALLY TIED IT TO CLIOQUINOL, A SUBSTANCE USED AS A PROPHYLAXIS FOR TOURIST DIAR-RHEA. IT WAS THAT SUBSTANCE THAT STARTED THE EPI-DEMIC.
SEARCHING FOR THE CAUSE OF THE PLAGUE...
IT KILLED COUNT-LESS PEOPLE...
THERE WAS A DISEASE OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN CALLED "SUBACUTE MYELO-OPTIC NEUROPA-THY"*
UH... WHAT?

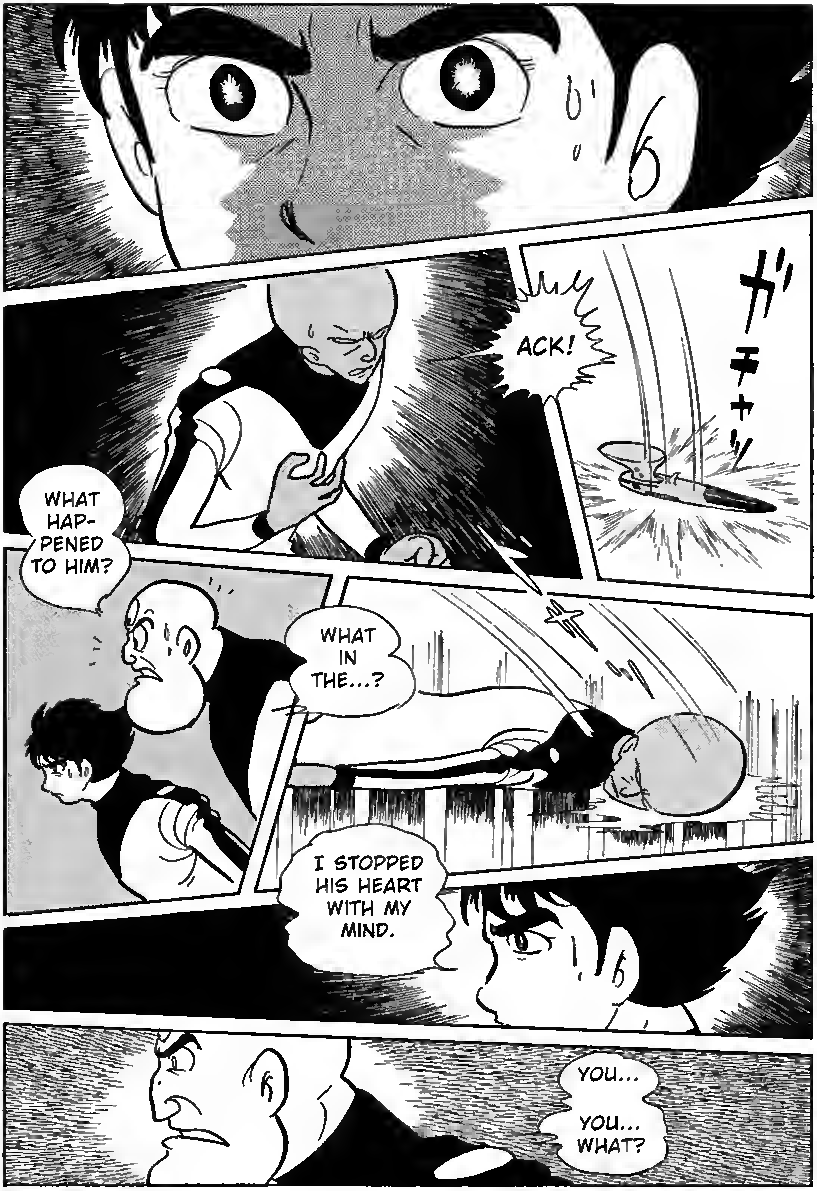
*HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/SUBACUTE_MYELO-OPTIC_NEUROPATHY

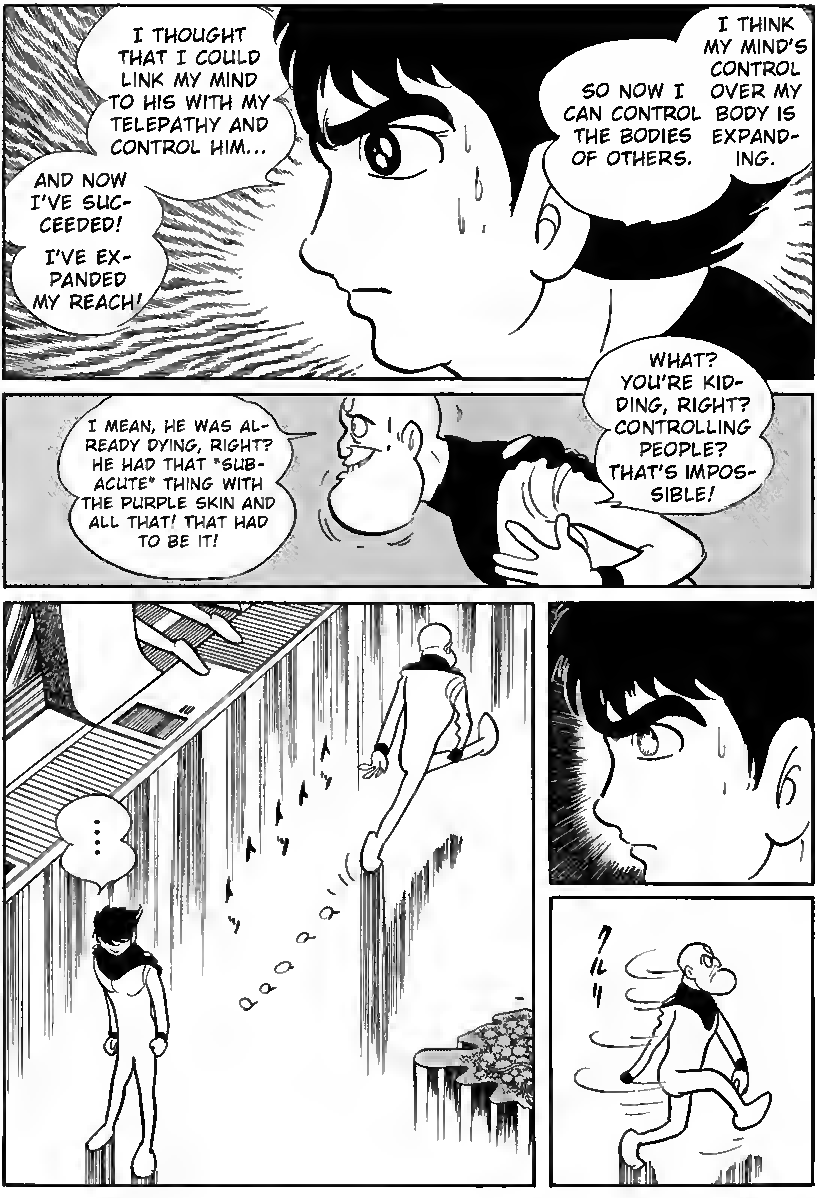
INSECTICIDE IS USED TO KILL INSECTS...
...THEN THE BIRDS DIE, DEPRIVED OF FOOD.
THEN THE FOREST DIES WITH NO BIRDS TO STOP PESTS FROM PROLIFERATING.
THE DEAD AND DRY TREES CAUSE FIRES...
WITH NO TREES, THE LAND LOSES THE CAPACITY TO RETAIN WATER..
...AND LANDSLIDES DESTROY FIELDS AND TOWNS.
IN THE END, THE FAMINE CAUSED BY THIS LOSS KILLS THE MAN WHO USED THE INSECTICIDE.
IT'S THE SAME WAY IN THE HUMAN BODY TOO. THE SAME CHAIN REACTION IS PRODUCED WHEN THE BIOLOGICAL EQUILIBRIUM IS BROKEN.

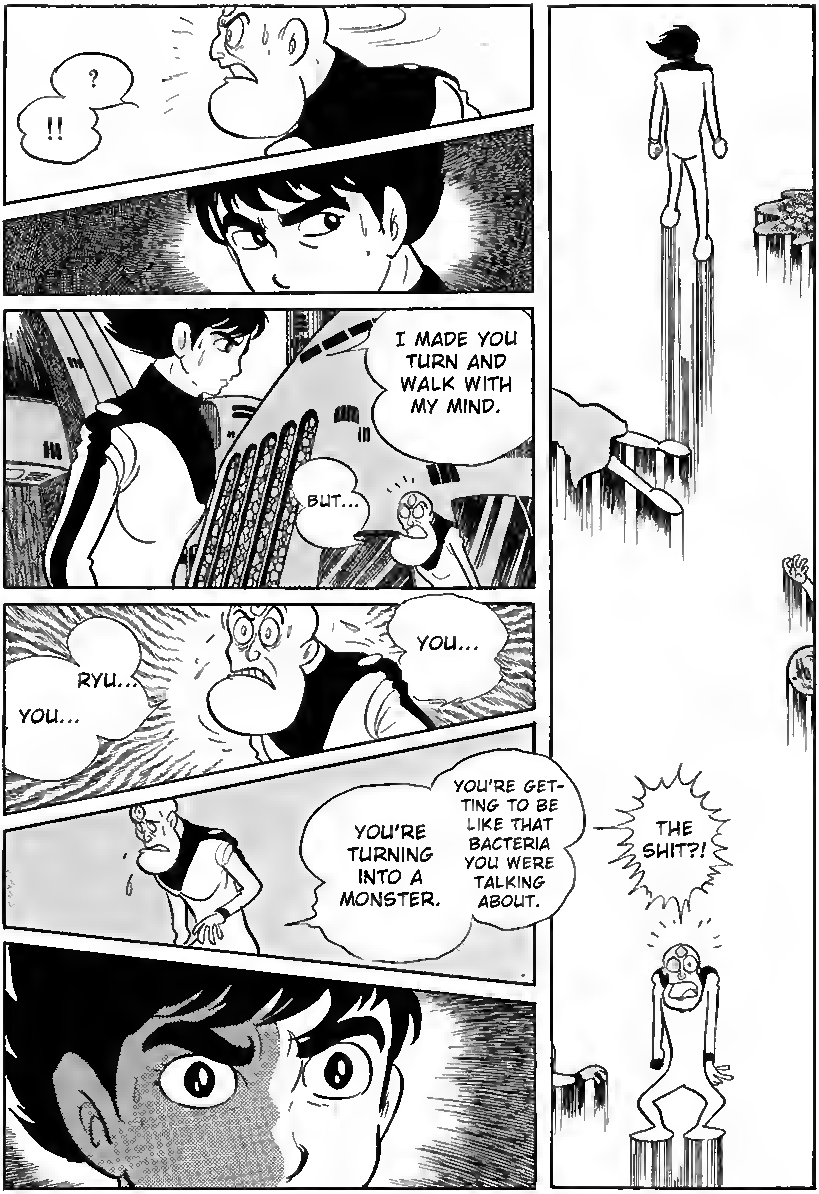

THE HUMAN BODY SERVES AS HOST FOR MILLIONS OF "PARASITES"...
SUCH AS
MICROBES AND BACTERIA, ANY OF WHICH CAN EASILY BE FOUND IN THE INTESTINES.
THEY PLAY SMALL ROLES IN THE BODY...
CREATING SUBSTANCES OR HELPING WITH DIGESTION...
BUT...
...THERE ARE CERTAIN MEDICATIONS...
THAT CAN KILL THOSE BACTERIA WHO HELP FIGHT OFF MORE HARMFUL ONES. SO, THE BAD BACTERIA OR BAD FUNGI THEN PROLIFERATE, WHICH INDUCES EXTREMELY NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN BODY.
THEN MAN ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE THESE UNWANTED EFFECTS WITH OTHER DRUGS...
BUT CERTAIN BAD BACTERIA SURVIVE...
...IN THE END...
...BECOMING MORE AND MORE RESISTANT TO THE MEDICATIONS. THEY MUTATE, BASICALLY.
AND THEN, ONE DAY...


THE BACTERIA BECOME MONSTERS.
OKAY, I DIDN'T GET MUCH OF THAT, BUT FROM WHAT I CAN UNDERSTAND...
...THEY CAUGHT SOME KIND OF DISEASE, RIGHT?
IN THAT CASE...
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT GETS US TOO! COME ON, ALREADY!
NO.
I DOUBT IT'LL HAVE ANY EFFECT ON US.
WE'RE ALWAYS COVERED IN BACTERIA AND MICROBES. IT'S PROBABLY SOMETHING WE PICKED UP WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT!

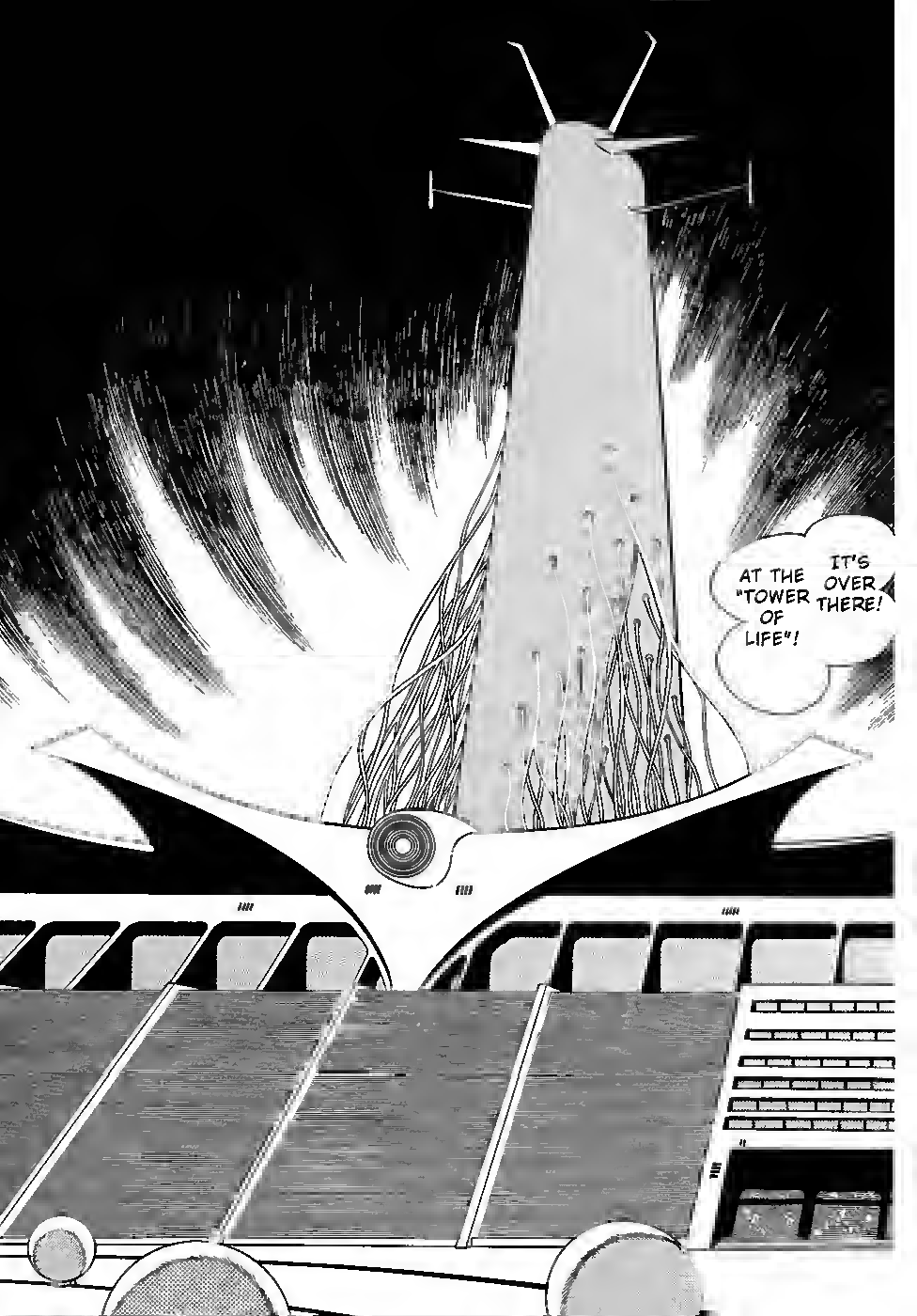
THAT'S IT!
I UNDERSTAND NOW!
THOUGH I DON'T BELIEVE FOR A SECOND THAT ALL OF THEM ARE DEAD.
HUH?
DAMN YOU!
HEY!
IT'S THE PILOT!
YOU WERE THE ONES WHO BROUGHT THIS DISEASE!
IT WAS YOU ASSHOLES!
US?
I'LL KILL YOU!
I'LL KILL BOTH OF YOU!


ACK!
ガキャッ
WHAT HAP-PENED TO HIM?
WHAT IN THE...?
I STOPPED HIS HEART WITH MY MIND.
YOU...
YOU... WHAT?

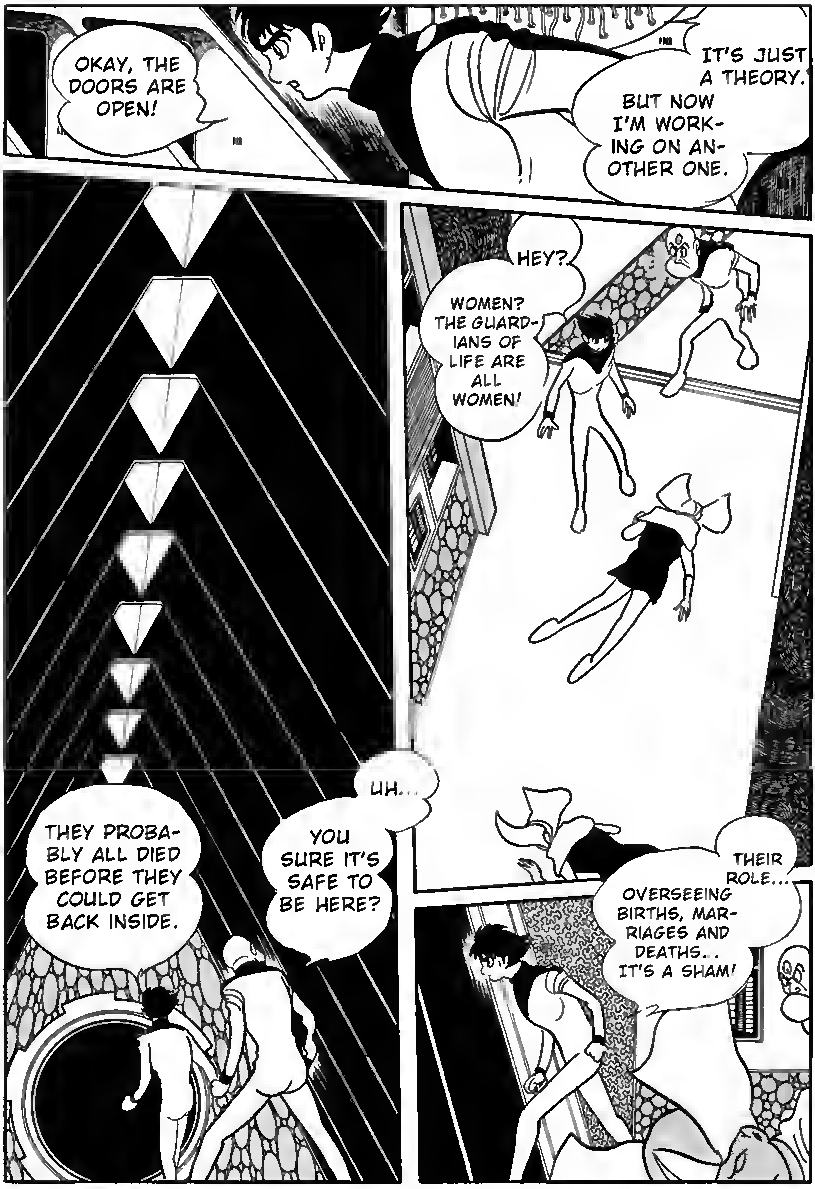

I THOUGHT THAT I COULD LINK MY MIND TO HIS WITH MY TELEPATHY AND CONTROL HIM...
AND NOW I'VE SUCCEEDED!
I'VE EXPANDED MY REACH!
I THINK MY MIND'S CONTROL OVER MY BODY IS EXPANDING.
SO NOW I CAN CONTROL THE BODIES OF OTHERS.
WHAT? YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? CONTROLLING PEOPLE? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
I MEAN, HE WAS ALREADY DYING, RIGHT? HE HAD THAT "SUBACUTE" THING WITH THE PURPLE SKIN AND ALL THAT! THAT HAD TO BE IT!
.....
ハッ!

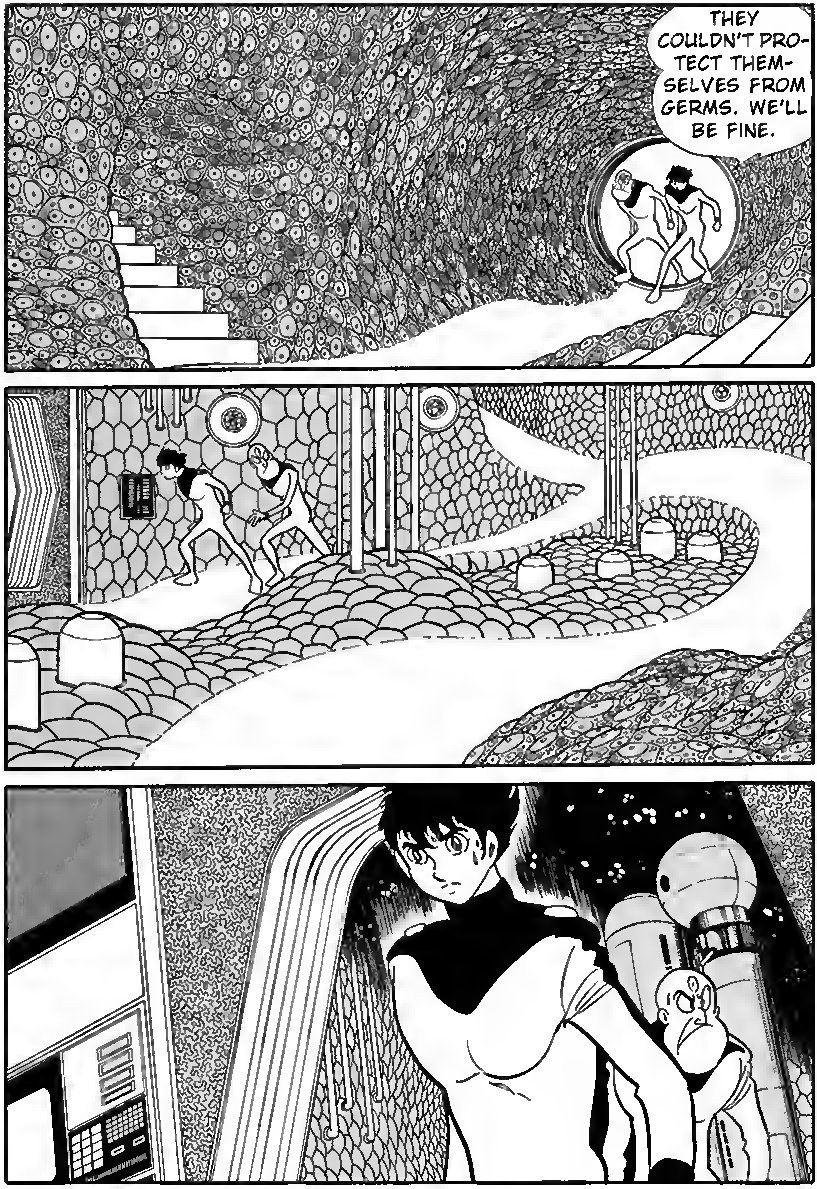

?
!!
I MADE YOU TURN AND WALK WITH MY MIND.
BUT...
YOU...
RYU...
YOU...
YOU'RE TURNING INTO A MONSTER.
YOU'RE GETTING TO BE LIKE THAT BACTERIA YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT.
THE SHIT?!

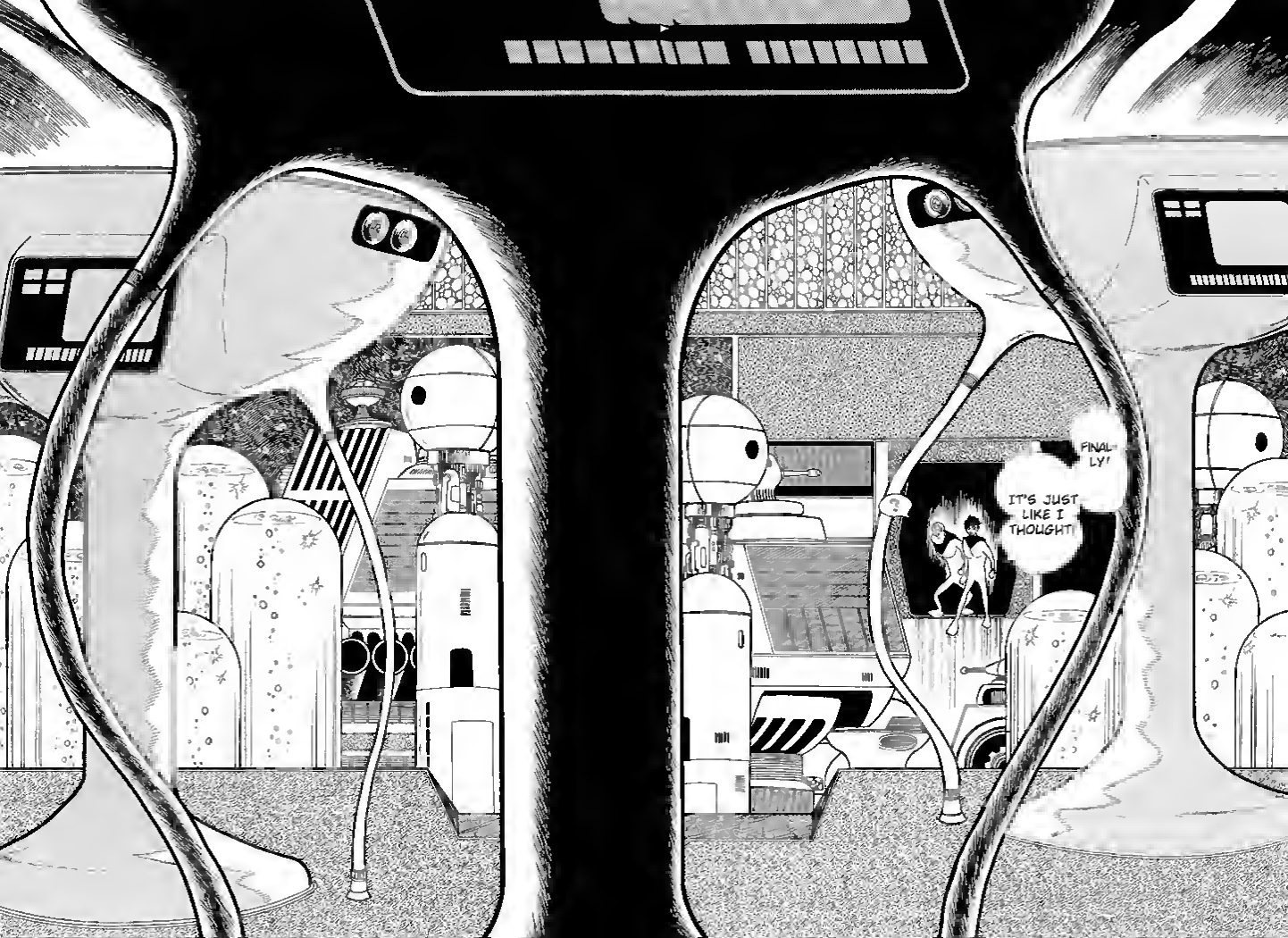
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE LEAVE.
LISTEN, RYU...
A MON-STER...
...
BUT ALL THESE BODIES ARE JUST GIVING ME THE CREEPS.
AND I DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE FREE NOW...
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS OUR FAULT OR WHAT...
RYU? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
RYU?
I NEED TO VERIFY SOME-THING...
...WHILE WE HAVE THE CHANCE.
WAIT! BEFORE THAT.

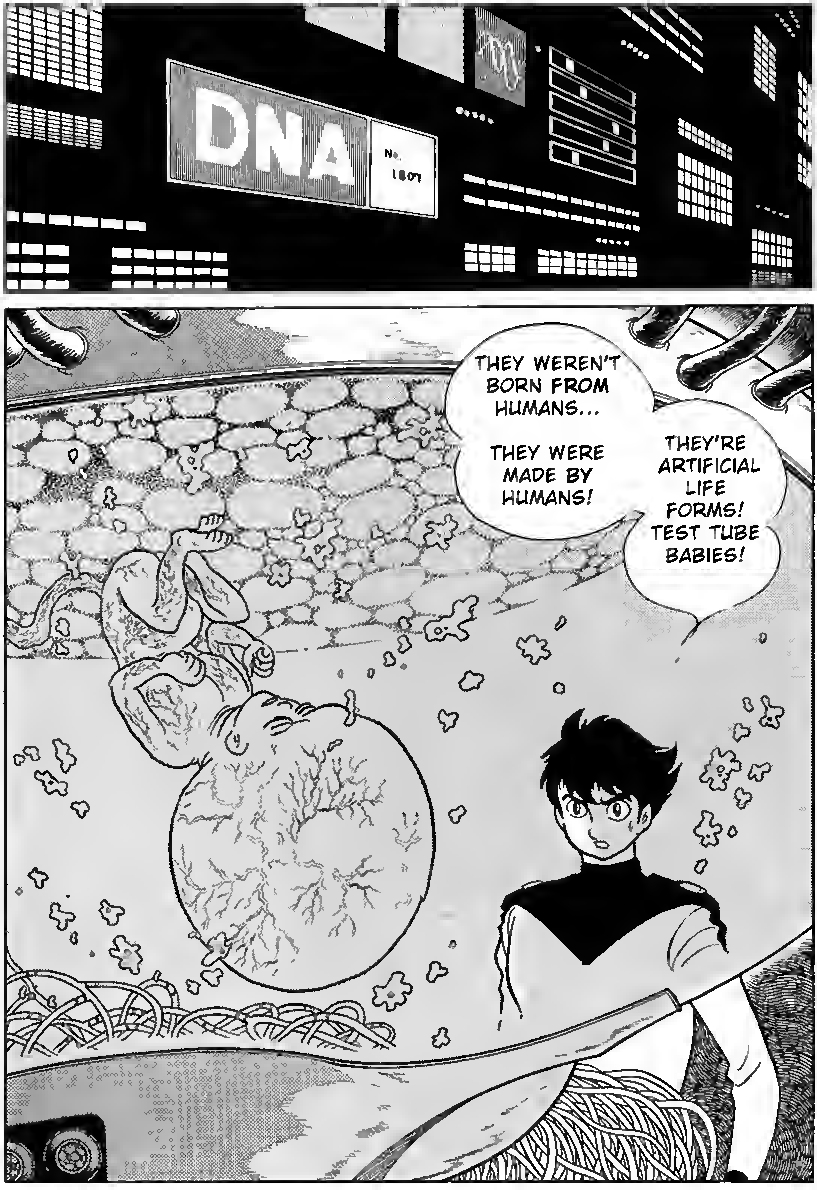

IT'S OVER THERE!
AT THE "TOWER OF LIFE"!

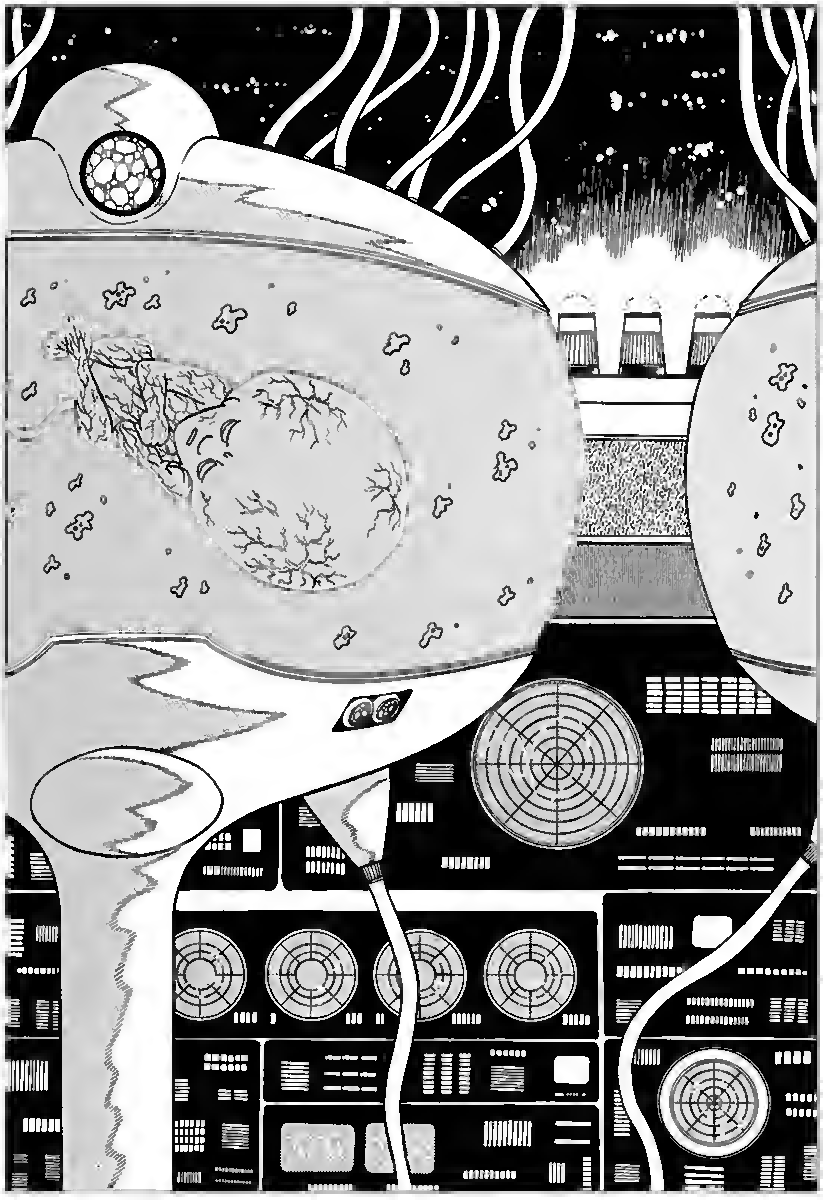
HUH?
DIDN'T YOU SAY THEY WERE ALIENS?
ABOUT WHAT THEY REALLY ARE!
THAT TOWER MUST HOLD THE TRUTH...

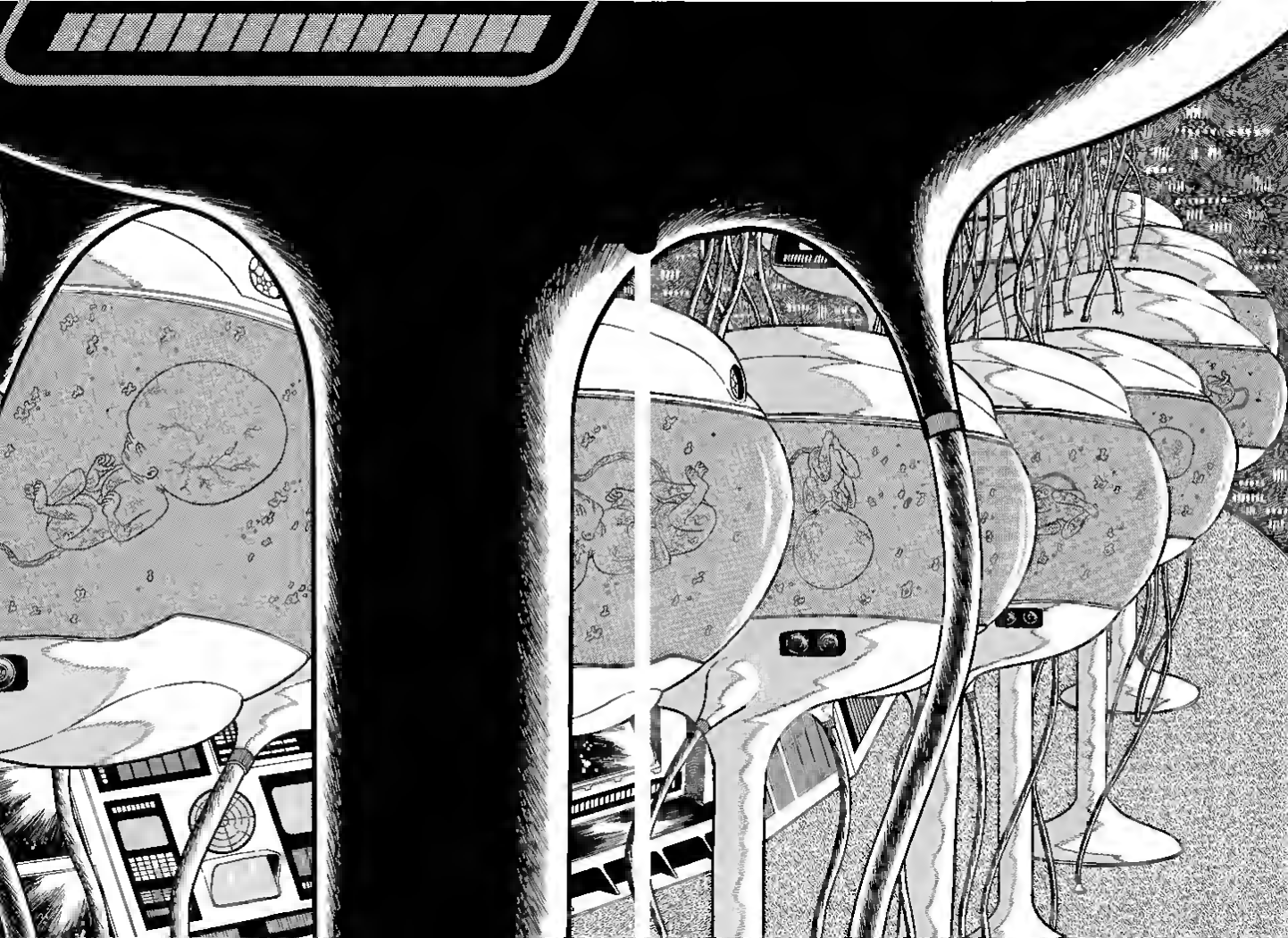

OKAY, THE DOORS ARE OPEN!
IT'S JUST A THEORY. BUT NOW I'M WORKING ON ANOTHER ONE.
HEY?
WOMEN? THE GUARDIANS OF LIFE ARE ALL WOMEN!
UH...
YOU SURE IT'S SAFE TO BE HERE?
THEY PROBABLY ALL DIED BEFORE THEY COULD GET BACK INSIDE.
THEIR ROLE... OVERSEEING BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.. IT'S A SHAM!


THEY COULDN'T PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM GERMS. WE'LL BE FINE.


FINALLY!
IT'S JUST LIKE I THOUGHT!


DNA
No. 1807
THEY WEREN'T BORN FROM HUMANS...
THEY WERE MADE BY HUMANS!
THEY'RE ARTIFICIAL LIFE FORMS! TEST TUBE BABIES!



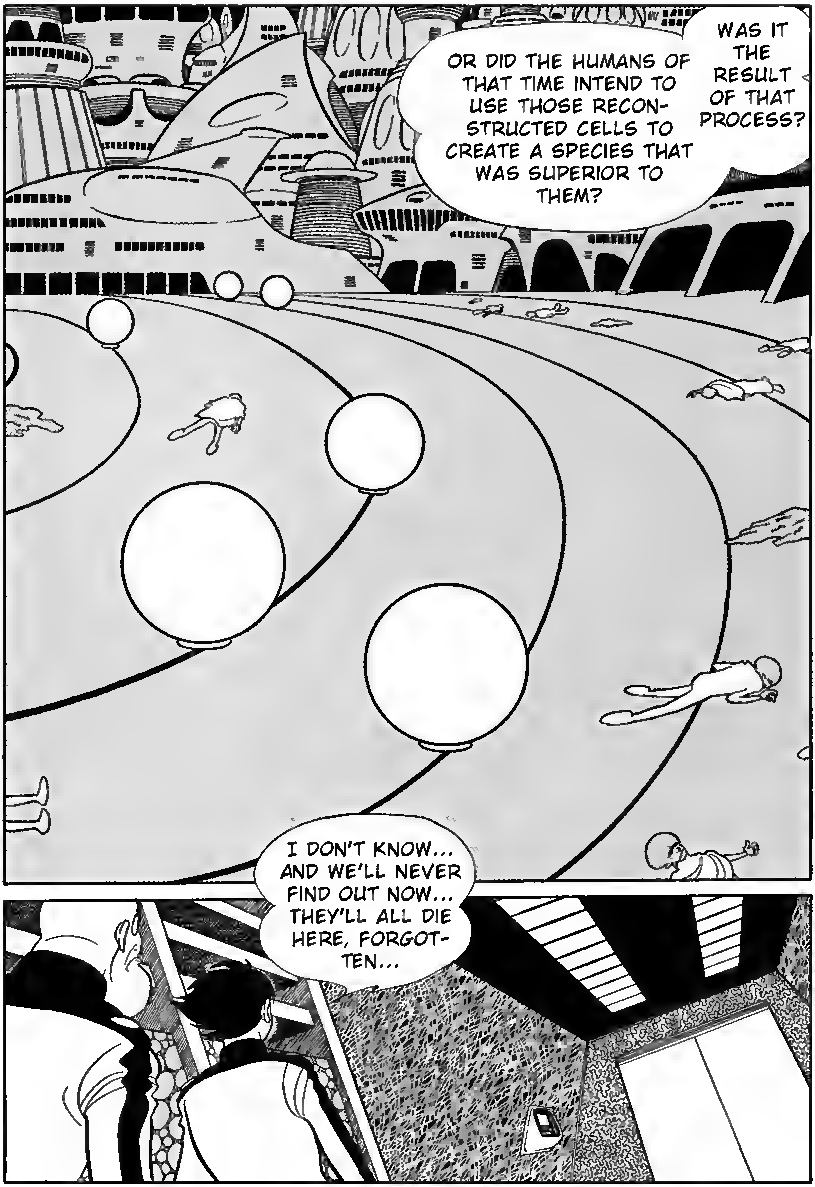


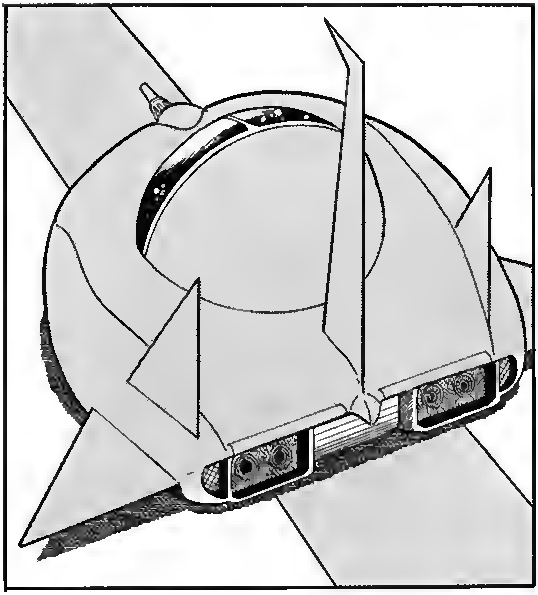
HEY, LOOK!
IT'S ONE OF THOSE "CHAOS" THINGS!
SO THEN THOSE "CHAOS" CREATURES...
WERE THE FIRST ARTIFICIAL LIFE-FORMS!

...BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED AT AN INCREDIBLE PACE...
IN THE 1960S AND 70S...

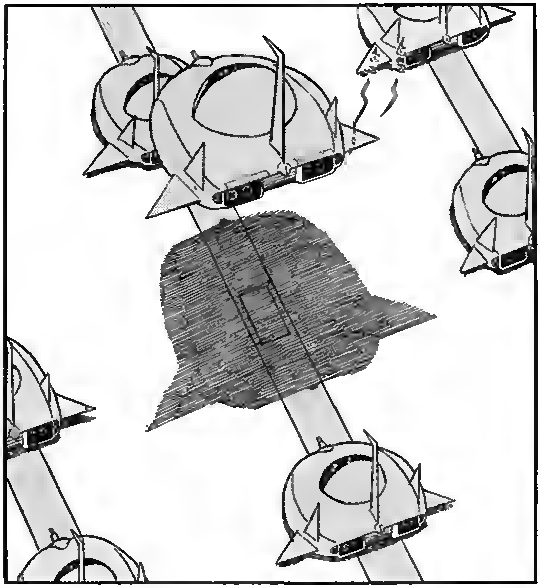
IN THE BEGINNING, HUMANS RECONSTITUTED PROTEINACEOUS CELLS IN TEST TUBES THAT COULD GIVE RISE TO LIVING ORGANISMS. THESE PROTEINS ALREADY EXISTED IN NATURE, DEVELOPING OVER MANY YEARS TO GIVE THEM THE FORM THAT WE KNOW TODAY.
THE MOST RECENT DISCOVERIES IN MOLECULAR DNA, RNA, AND CLONING TECHNIQUES WERE ADDED TO CREATE A COPY OF AN ANIMAL ORGANISM. IN DOING SO THEY MANAGED TO RECREATE THE 24 CHROMOSOMES OF HUMAN GENES FROM A TINY CELL WITH THE SIZE OF A MICROKERNEL OR A FEW NANOMETRES.
IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY WOULD GIVE LIFE TO AN ARTIFICIAL HUMAN.
IT MUST HAVE TAKEN DECADES OF TRIAL AND ERROR AND COUNTLESS INVENTIONS AND DISCOVERIES TO MANAGE...
"CHAOS" WAS JUST THE PROTOTYPE. THEN THEY GAVE IT HUMAN FORM

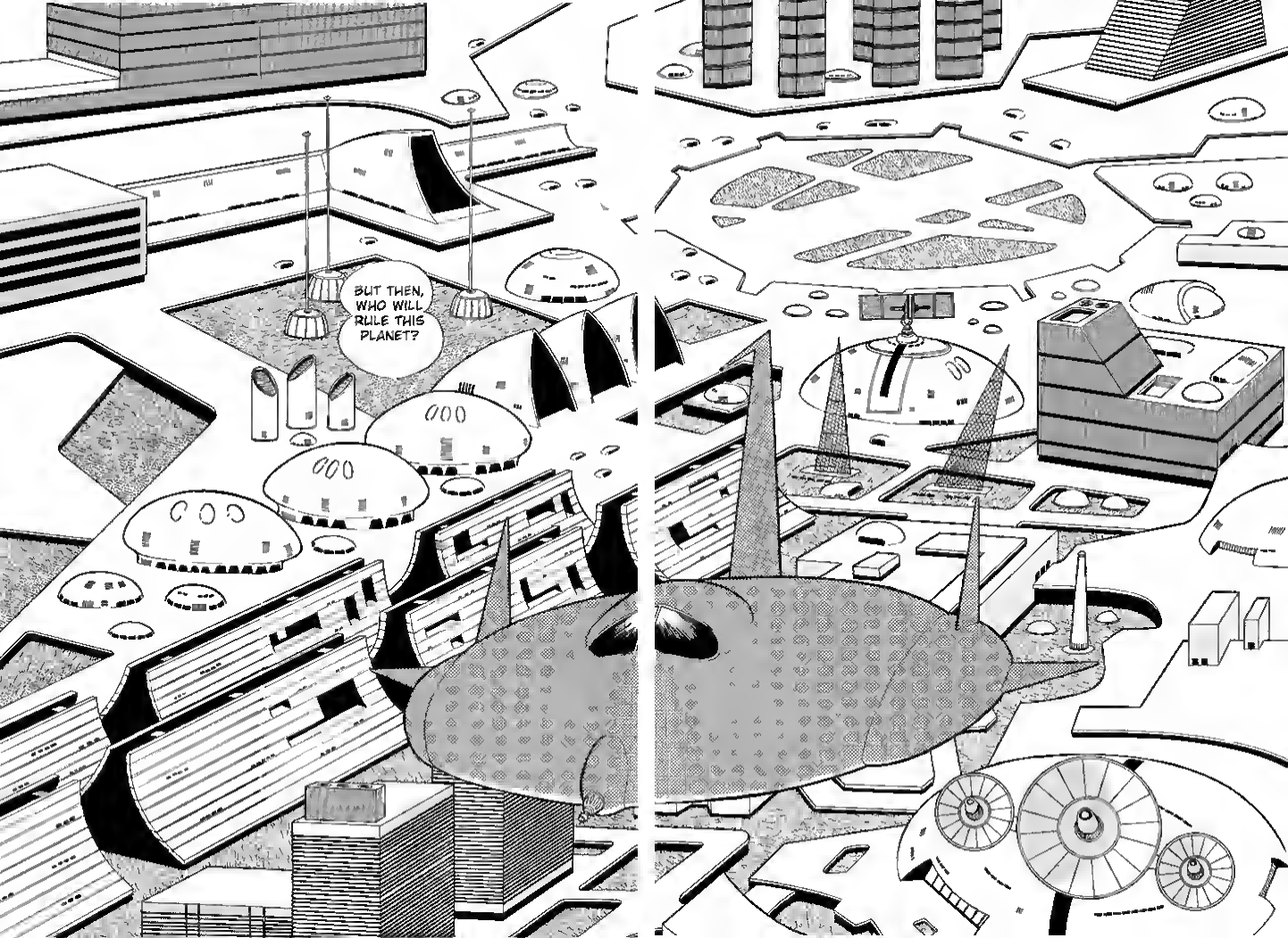
WHATEVER BIOLOGIST CREATED IT NAMED IT "CHAOS" BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT REPRESENTED.
AND THEY LET IT LIVE TO CELEBRATE THEIR FIRST CREATION!
SO FOR THE NEWMEN, THE "CHAOS" ARE SACRED, BECAUSE THEY WERE THEIR ORIGINAL ANCESTORS, THEIR ADAMS AND EVES.
THEY ALL CAME FROM THE SAME PLACE, AND IN THE END THEY WERE VULNERABLE TO THE SAME DISEASE
SO, IS IT...

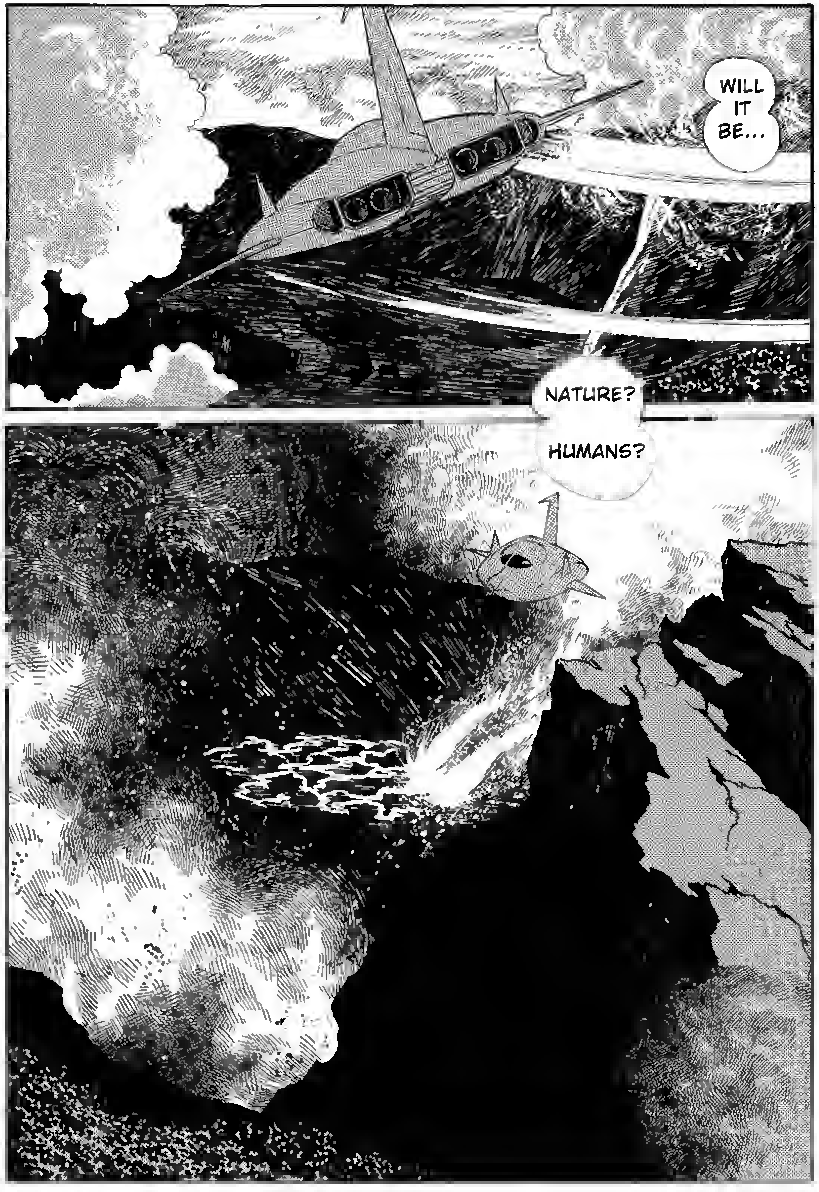

WAS IT THE RESULT OF THAT PROCESS?
OR DID THE HUMANS OF THAT TIME INTEND TO USE THOSE RECONSTRUCTED CELLS TO CREATE A SPECIES THAT WAS SUPERIOR TO THEM?
I DON'T KNOW... AND WE'LL NEVER FIND OUT NOW... THEY'LL ALL DIE HERE, FORGOTTEN...



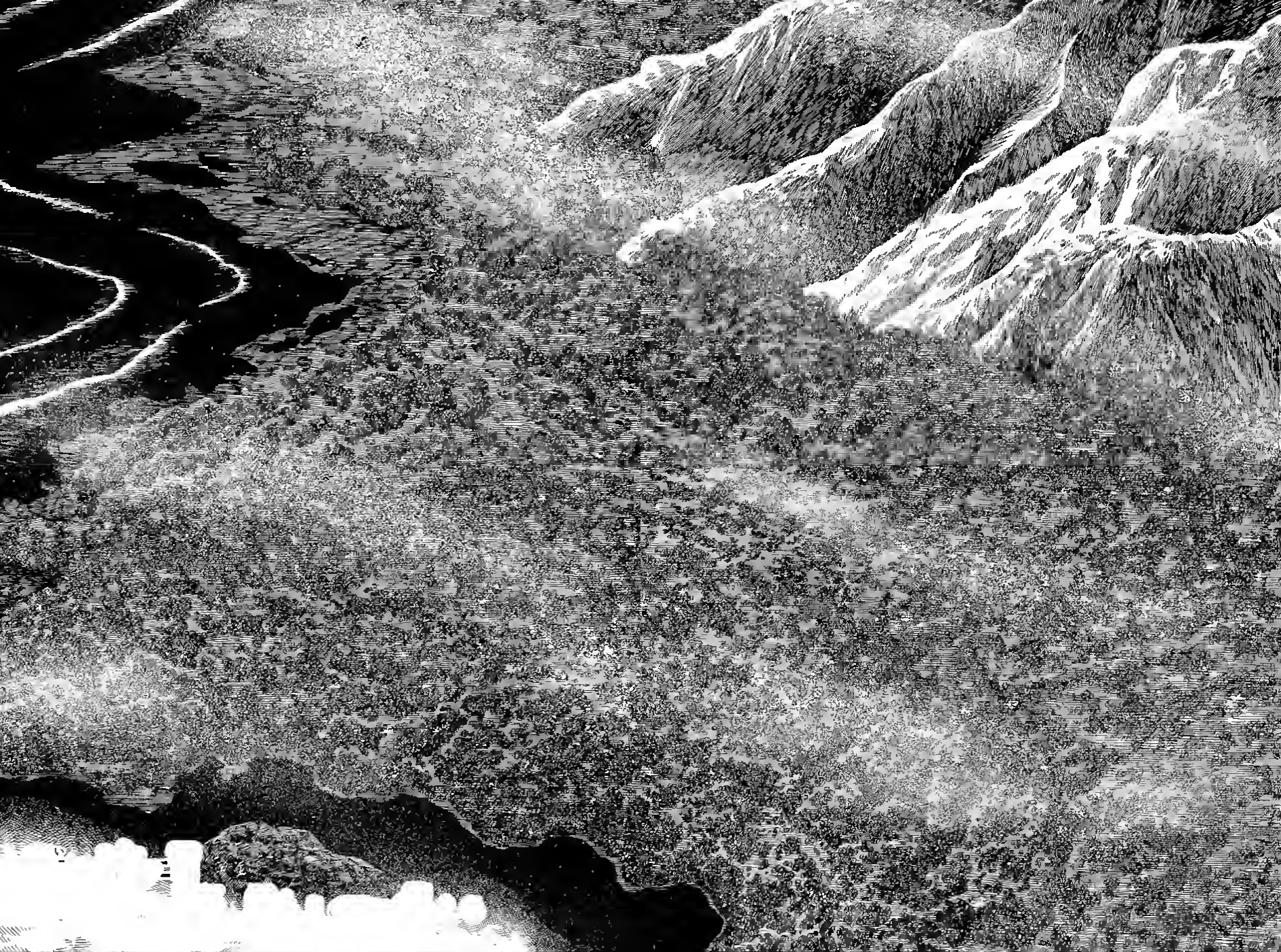
THE NEWMEN WON'T BE THE ONES TO RULE THE FUTURE...



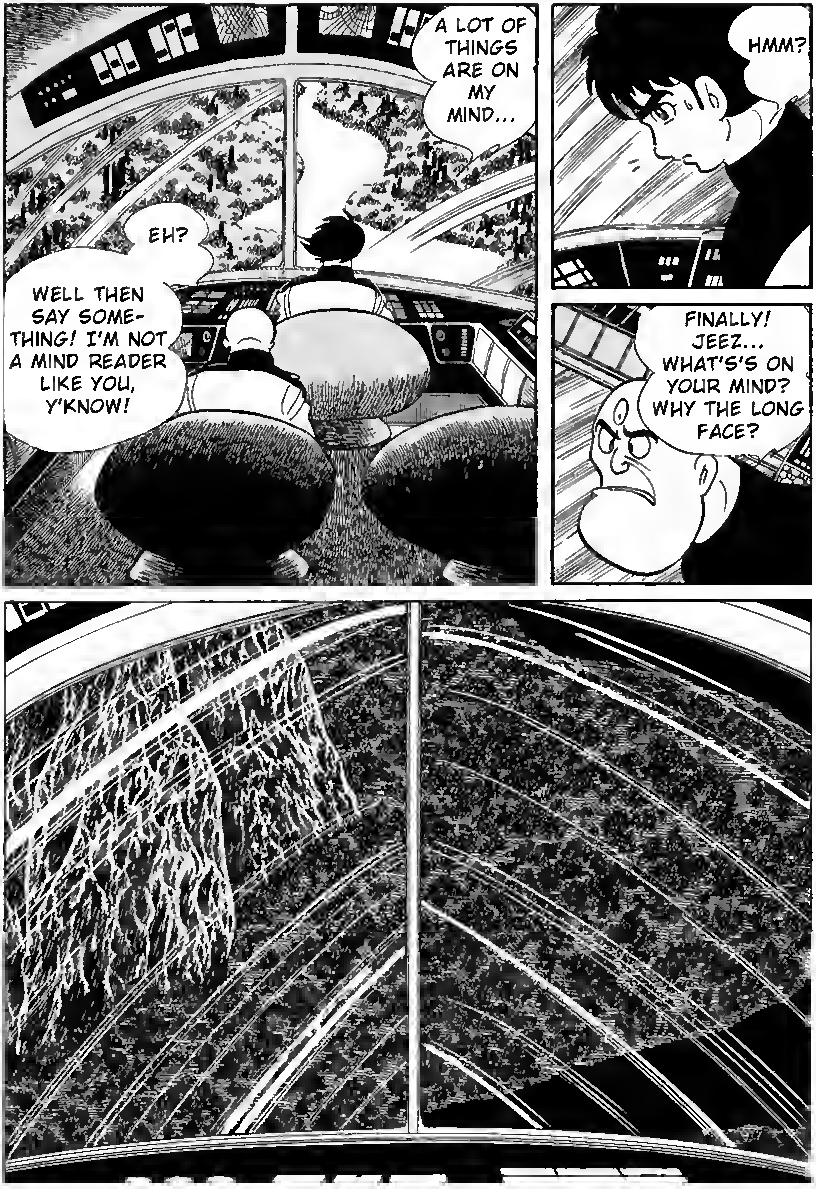

BUT THEN, WHO WILL RULE THIS PLANET?

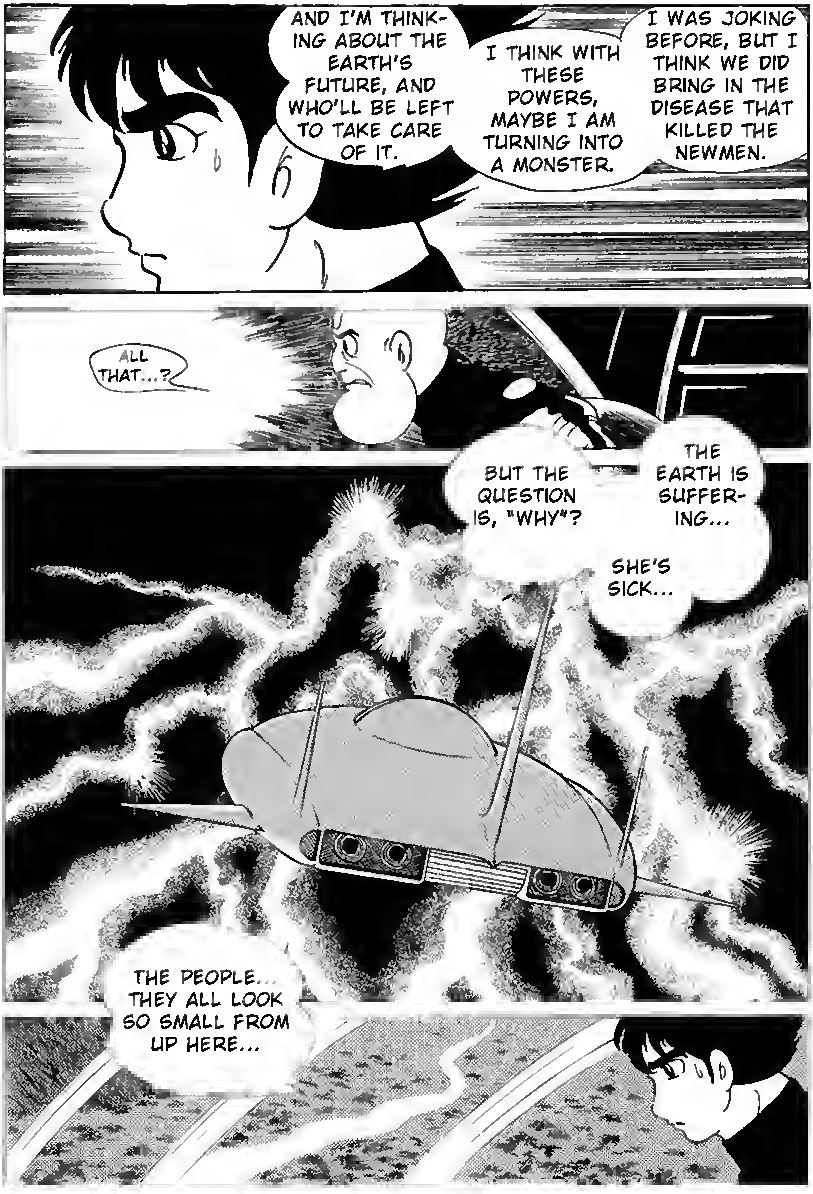

WILL IT BE...
NATURE?
HUMANS?

OR...

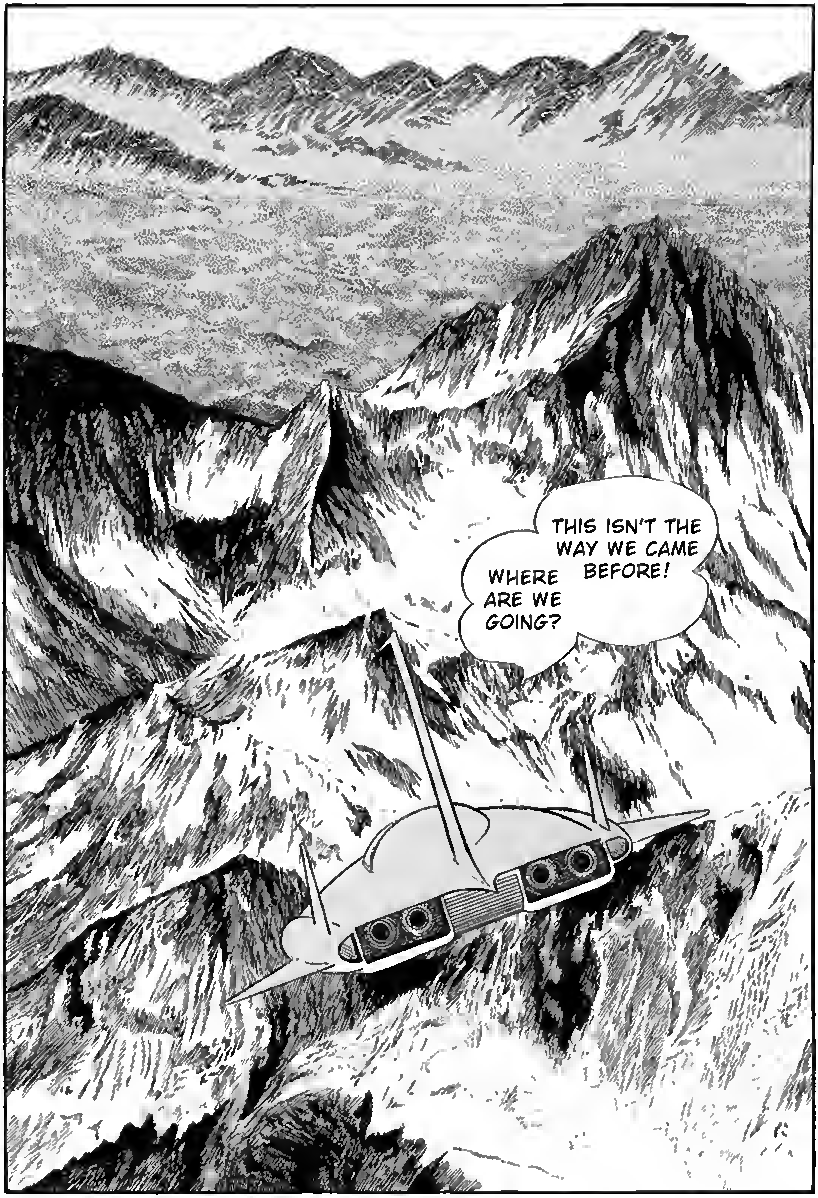


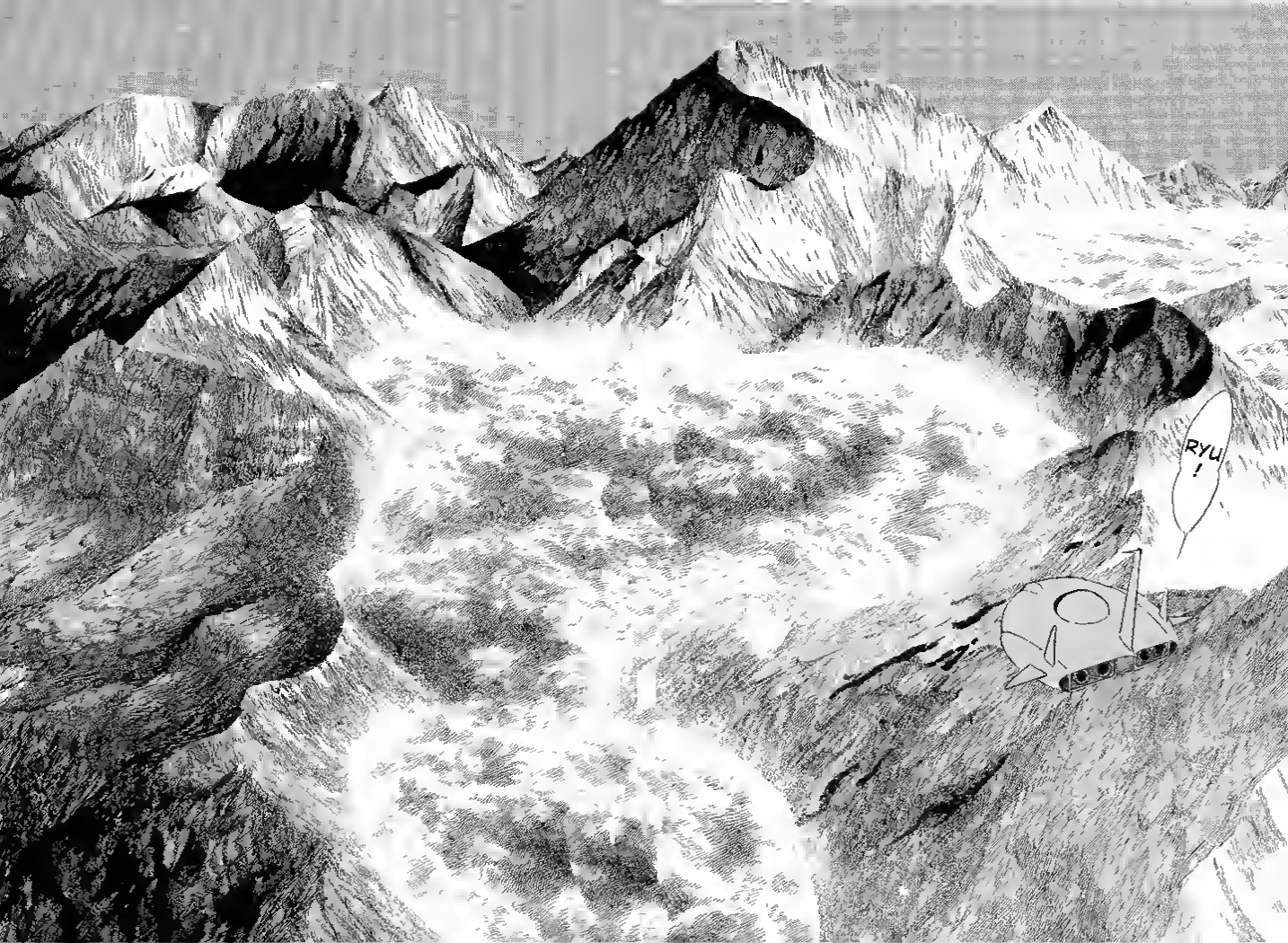
HEY, RYU!
I SAID, "HEY, RYU"!
YOU IN THERE?


A LOT OF THINGS ARE ON MY MIND...
EH?
WELL THEN SAY SOMETHING! I'M NOT A MIND READER LIKE YOU, Y'KNOW!
HMM?
FINALLY! JEEZ... WHAT'S'S ON YOUR MIND? WHY THE LONG FACE?


AND I'M THINKING ABOUT THE EARTH'S FUTURE, AND WHO'LL BE LEFT TO TAKE CARE OF IT.
I THINK WITH THESE POWERS, MAYBE I AM TURNING INTO A MONSTER.
I WAS JOKING BEFORE, BUT I THINK WE DID BRING IN THE DISEASE THAT KILLED THE NEWMEN.
ALL THAT...?
BUT THE QUESTION IS, "WHY"?
THE EARTH IS SUFFERING...
SHE'S SICK...
THE PEOPLE... THEY ALL LOOK SO SMALL FROM UP HERE...

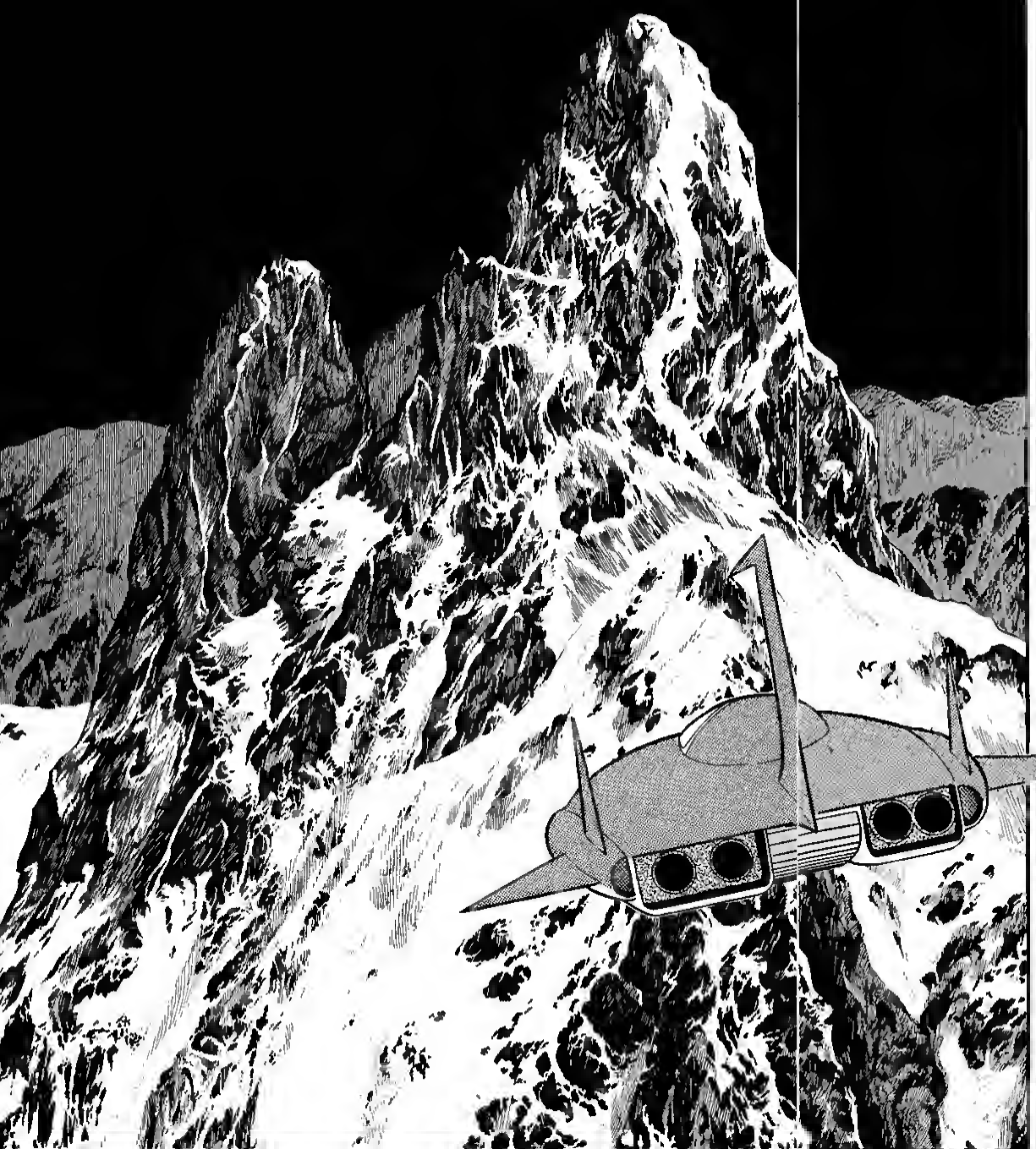
IF THE EARTH WERE THE SIZE OF A HUMAN BODY, HUMANS WOULD BE LIKE MICROBES, GERMS EVEN.
REALLY SMALL...
YEAH ...
I THINK IT WAS SOMETHING YOU SAID...
THAT MADE ME REALIZE... HUMANS ARE THE MICROBES OF THE EARTH.
HUMANS ARE THE EARTH'S CELLS AND MICROBES!
AND I'M A MICROBE THAT'S TURNING INTO SOMETHING DANGEROUS...
IS IT LIKE AN IMMUNE CELL? OR IS IT THE CAUSE OF THE DISEASE?
THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT...
WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN? TO HAVE A MICROBE SUDDENLY TURNING INTO SOME KIND OF MONSTER IN A BODY THAT'S ALREADY SUFFERING?
WAIT A MINUTE, RYU...

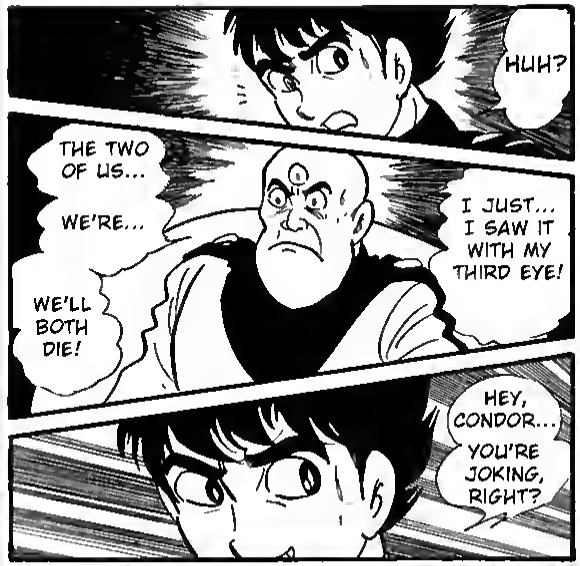

THIS ISN'T THE WAY WE CAME BEFORE!
WHERE ARE WE GOING?


RYU!

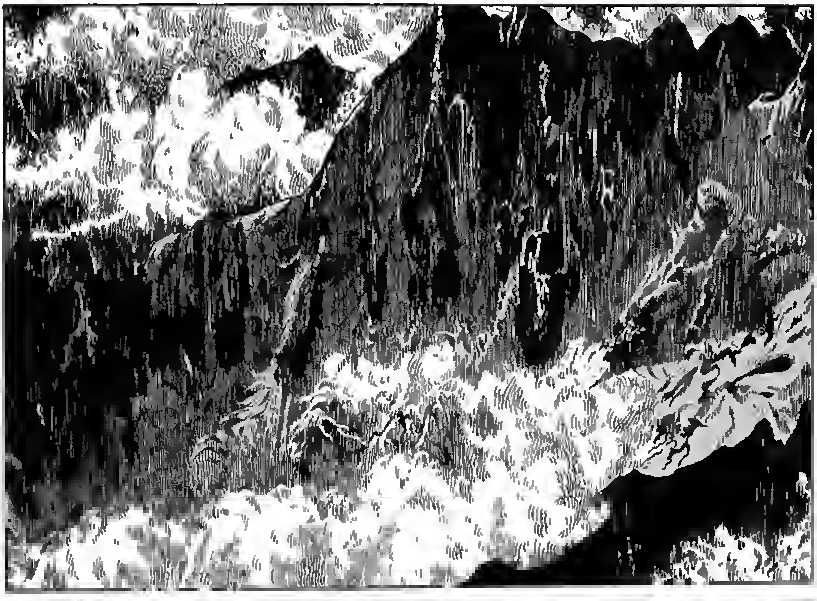
THE BRAKES AREN'T WORK-ING!
RYU!
IT'S LIKE... THE SHIP IS BEING DRAWN BY SOMETHING!
OR...
...SOME-ONE IS CALLING US...
WHAT NOW?!
AH!
CON-DOR!
.....
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WE... WE'RE...
WE'RE GONNA DIE!

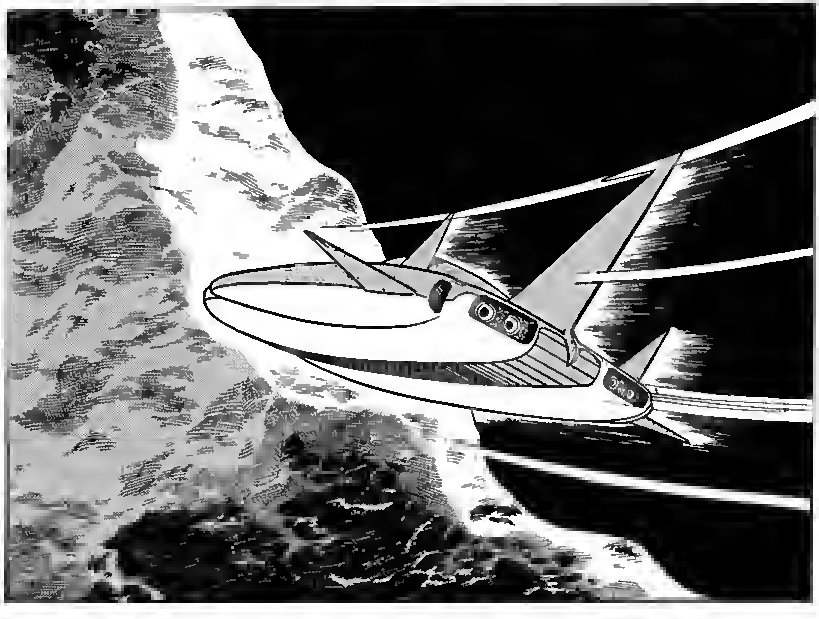
RYU!
IF YOU KEEP GOING THAT WAY, WE'LL HIT THE MOUN-TAIN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

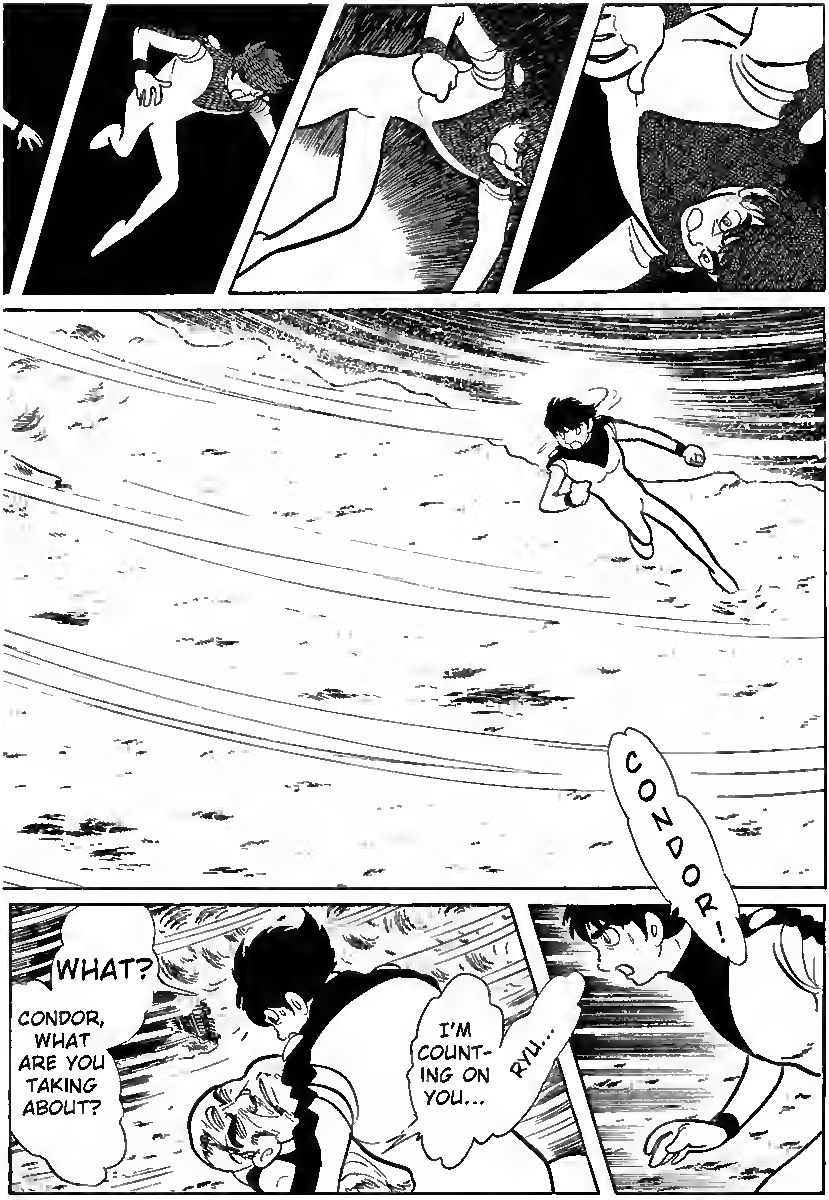


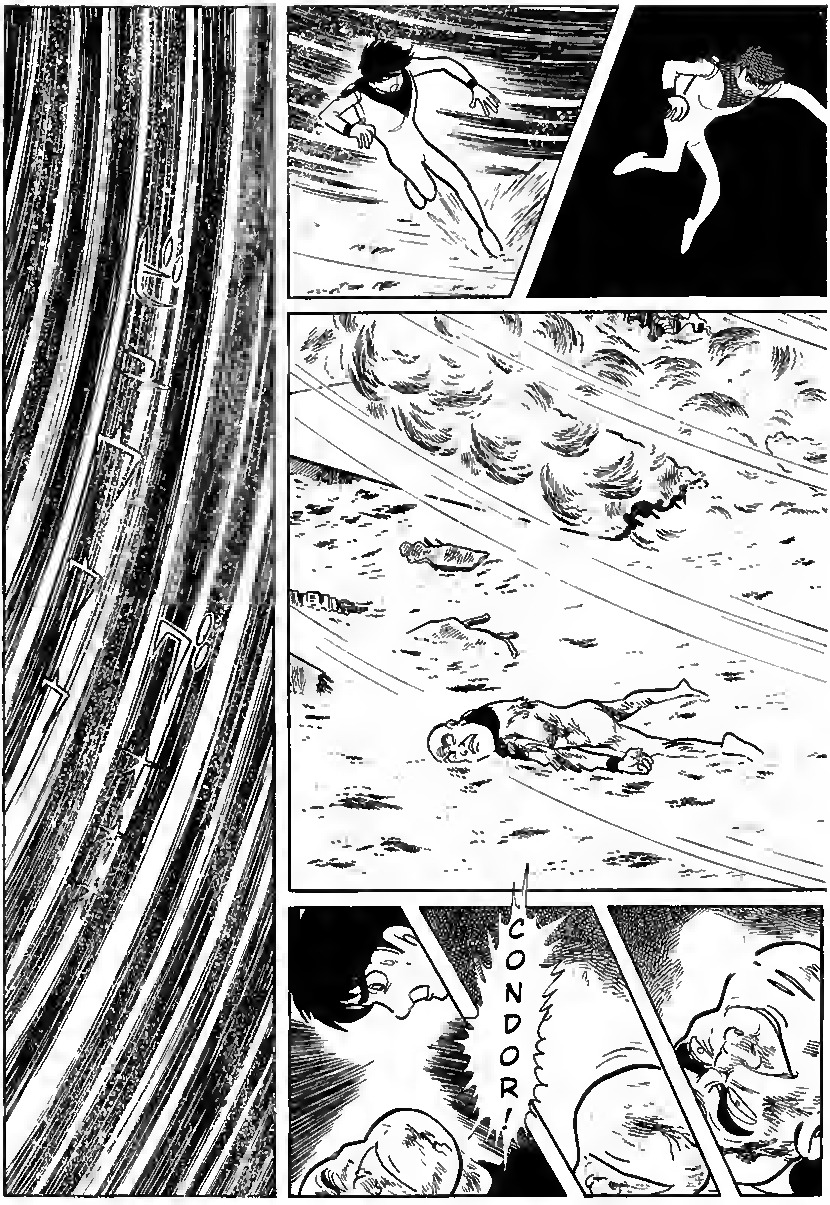

HUH?
THE TWO OF US...
WE'RE...
WE'LL BOTH DIE!
I JUST... I SAW IT WITH MY THIRD EYE!
HEY, CONDOR...
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

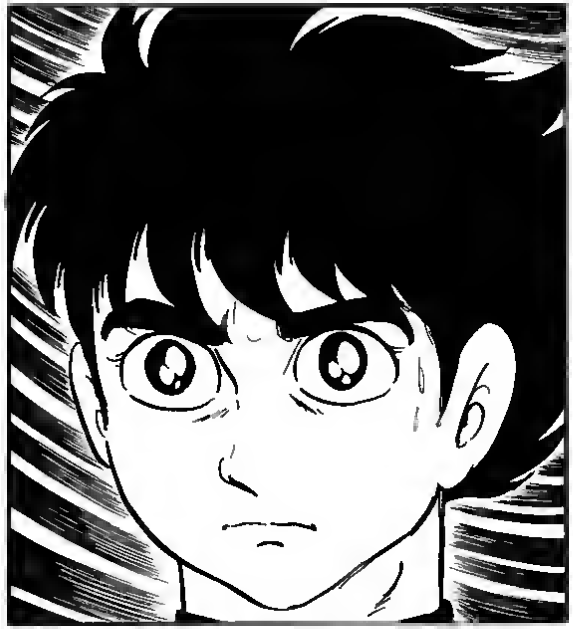
...
CONDOR?

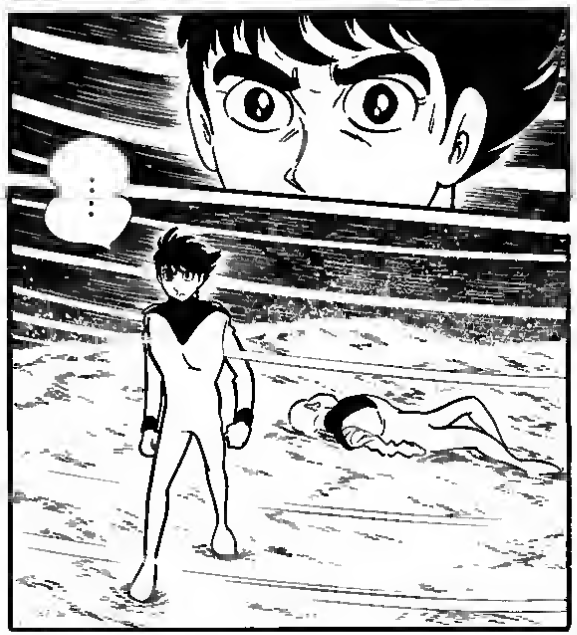


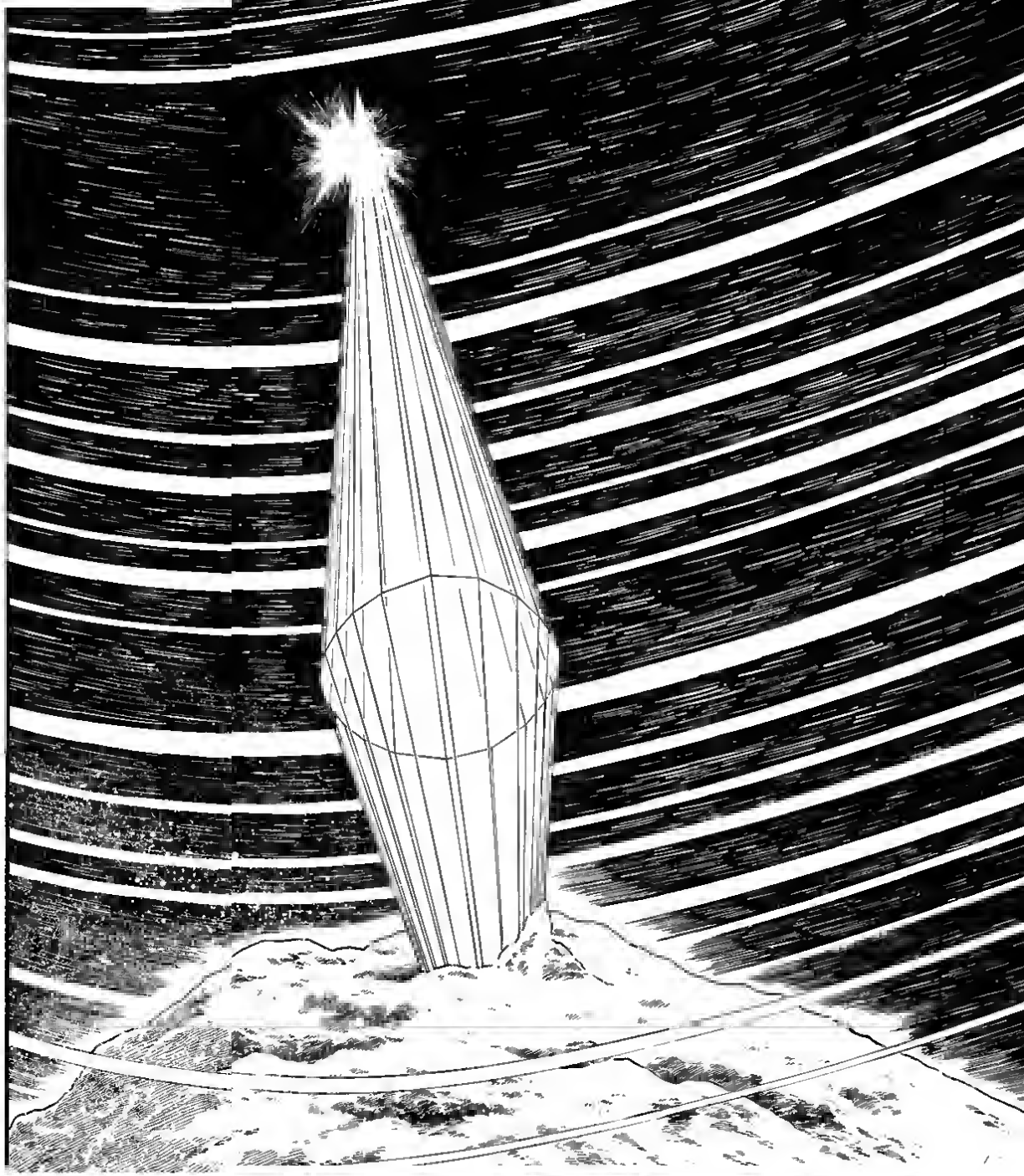


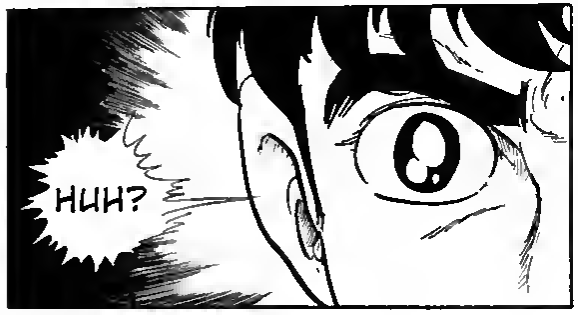

COZDOR!
RYU...
I'M COUNTING ON YOU...
WHAT?
CONDOR, WHAT ARE YOU TAKING ABOUT?

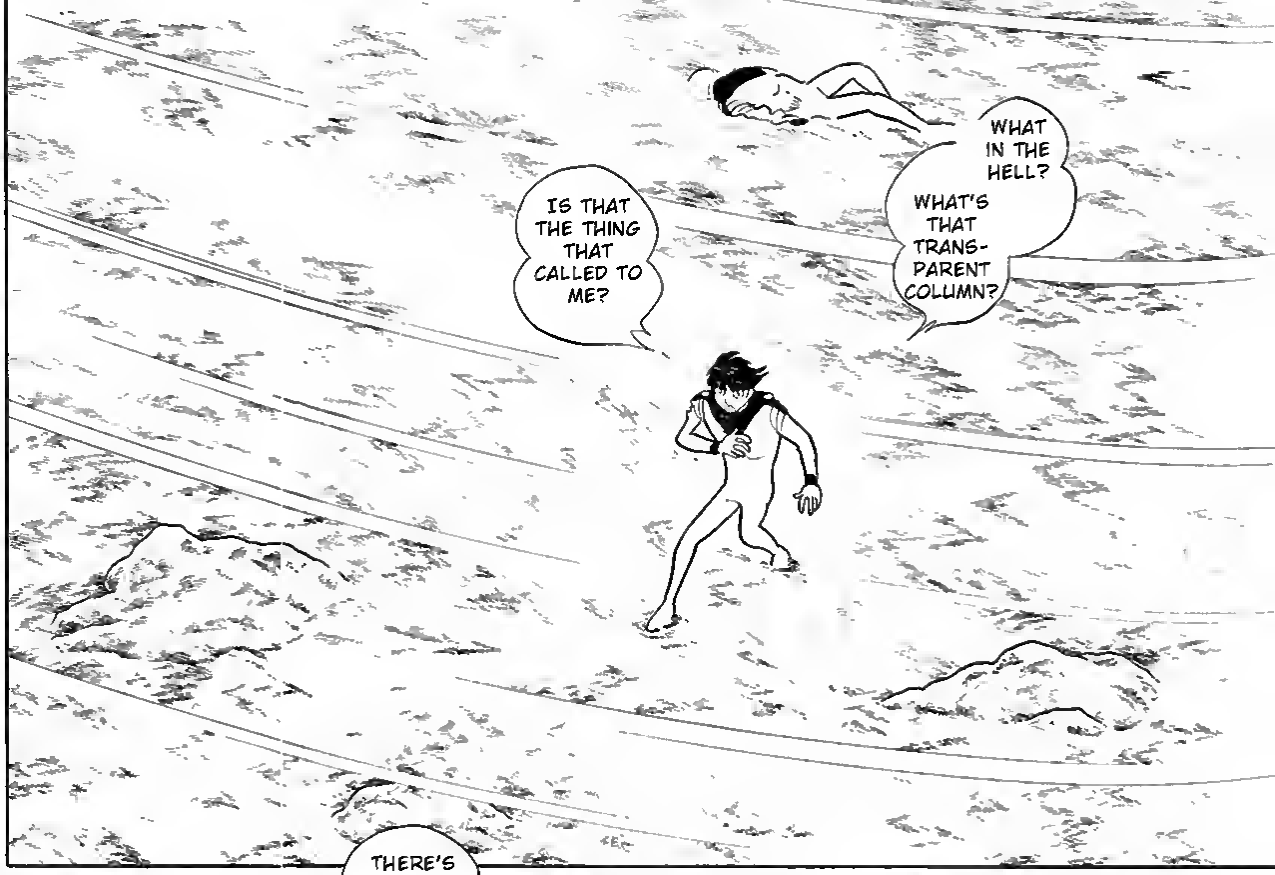

CONDOR!

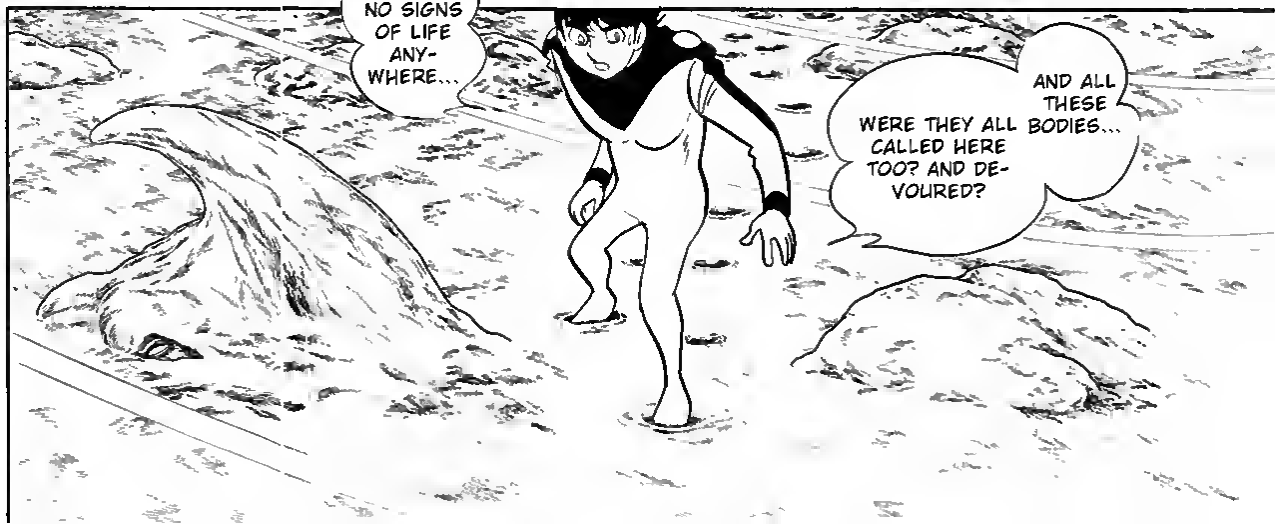




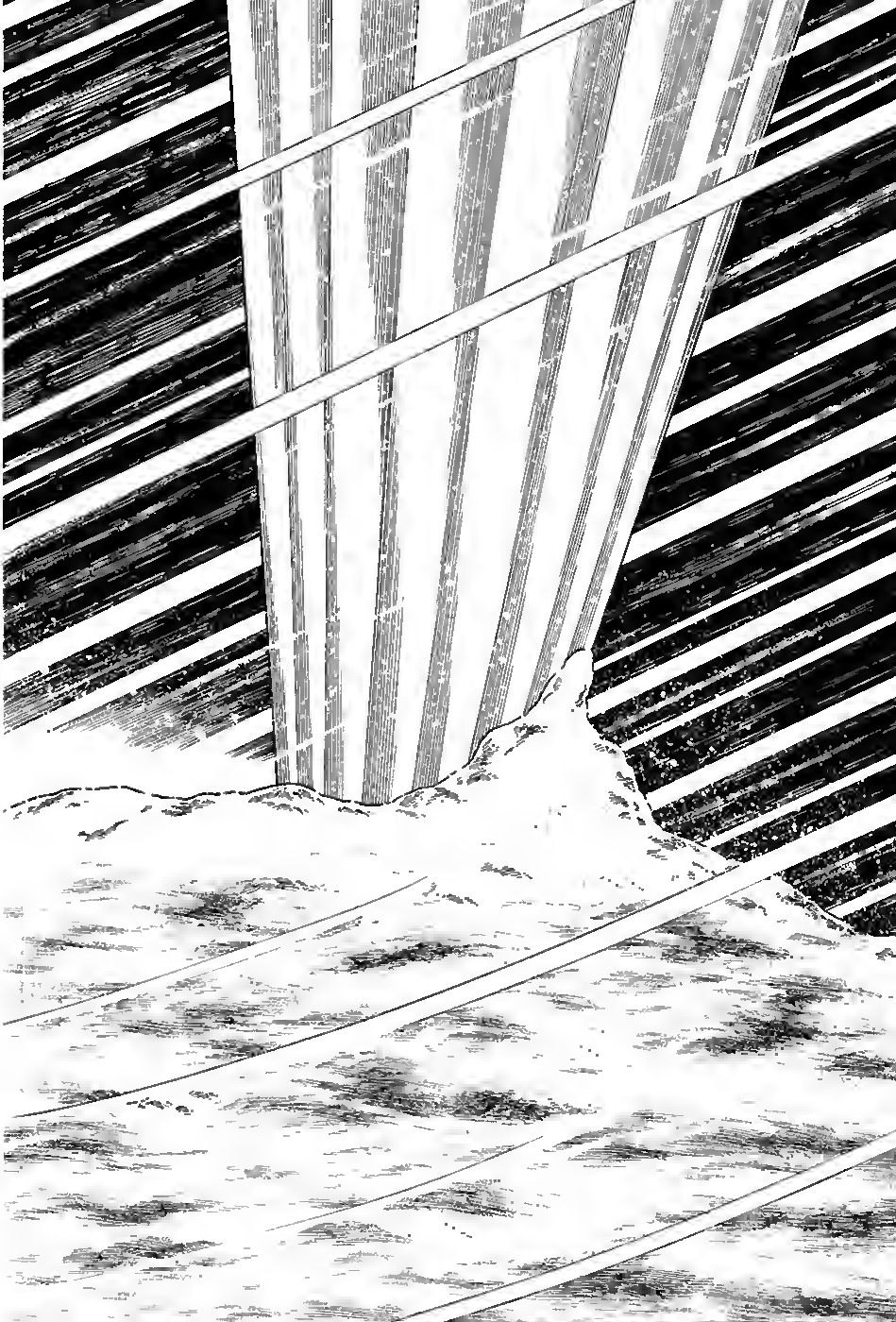



HUH?


IS THAT THE THING THAT CALLED TO ME?
WHAT IN THE HELL?
WHAT'S THAT TRANS-PARENT COLUMN?


THERE'S NO SIGNS OF LIFE ANY-WHERE...
AND ALL THESE BODIES... WERE THEY ALL CALLED HERE TOO? AND DE-VOURED?

WHO IS THAT?
WHO'S THERE?



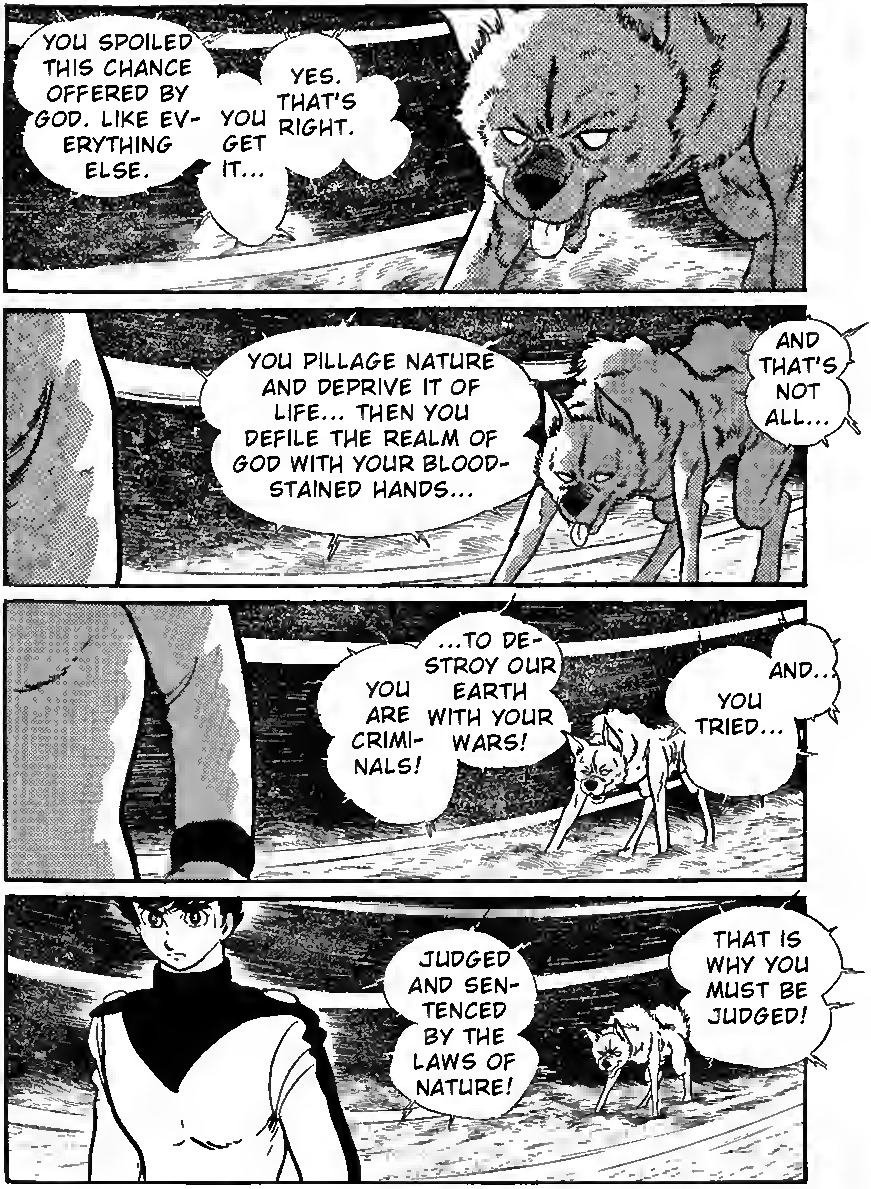
IS THAT A WOLF?
NO.
I AM JUST A DOG.
WHAT?
MY NAME IS MEDOR.
RYU.
THAT IS YOUR NAME.
AND YOU? YOU ARE CALLED...
BUT...
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE...?
YES.
LIKE YOU...
I CAN READ MINDS AND USE TELEP-ATHY.

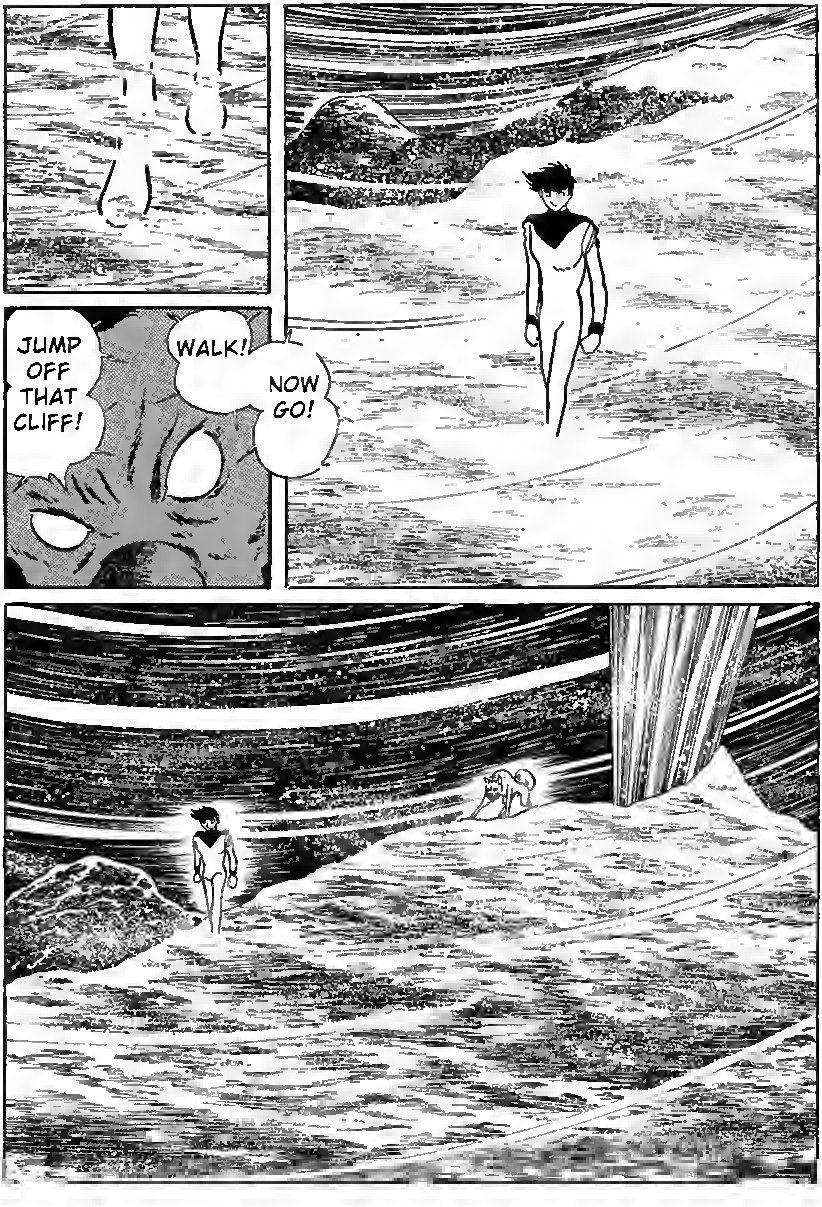
I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
IF WE HAD MET AT ANY OTHER TIME, ANY OTHER PLACE...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WHA?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT EACH OTHER!
BUT FOR NOW, I WILL BE HONEST AND TELL YOU...
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND, SOMEDAY...
TO KNOW WHO BETWEEN US...
...WILL SURVIVE TO RULE THE FUTURE!

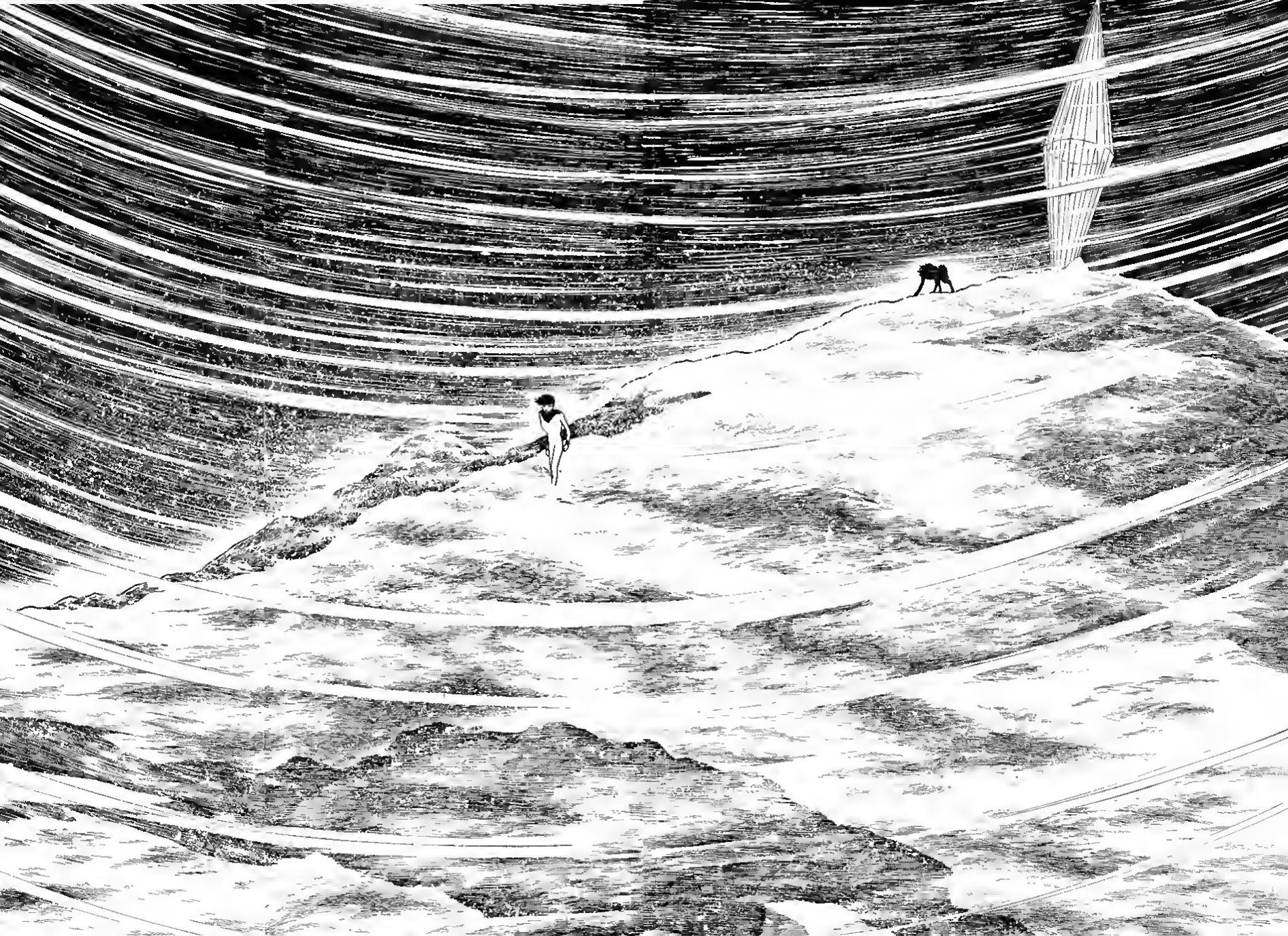
...IT CALMS ME. I FEEL ITS WARMTH AND IT SOOTHES MY SPIRIT.
THE MERE FACT THAT I FIND MYSELF NEAR IT... IT...
I AM SURE THIS COLUMN IS ENDOWED WITH THE WILL OF GOD...
BUT...
HOWEVER, THE VOICE OF "GOD" HAS STOPPED TALKING TO ME SINCE I ARRIVED HERE...
...BY THE GOD IN THIS COLUMN.
WE WERE BOTH CALLED HERE BY "THE WILL OF GOD"...
YES, FOR THE FUTURE...
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU ALL THIS TIME... I AM HERE TO FIGHT YOU!
YOU STOOD HERE IN FRONT OF ME. AND THE MOMENT I SAW YOU... WAS THE MOMENT I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD.
AND THEN YOU CAME.
IS IT TO TEST ME? DID I SOMEHOW DISPLEASE IT?
WHY DID IT NOT PUT ME TO SLEEP LIKE ALL THESE OTHERS?
WHY DOES IT NO LONGER SPEAK TO ME, AFTER CALLING ME FOR SO LONG?
WHY?
I THINK ABOUT IT. DAY AND NIGHT...

GOD IS PITTING US AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR ONE REASON...
TO DECIDE WHO WILL RULE THE EARTH AND ALL THE OTHER LIVING BEINGS THAT SHARE IT! WILL IT BE MAN ONCE AGAIN, AS IT HAS FOR SO LONG? OR WILL IT BE US CANINES, NOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN ENDOWED WITH THESE EXTRAORDINARY POWERS?

THE FUTURE IS YOURS, BRAVE CANINE!
HUMANS NO LONGER HAVE THE RIGHT TO RULE THE EARTH. NOT AFTER WHAT WE'VE DONE.
WE...
HUMANS...
WE DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT...
WE WERE MUCH TOO ARRO-GANT...
WE THOUGHT WE WERE GODS... IN-FALLIBLE, SUPERIOR...
THEN SUDDEN-LY...
...WITHOUT REALIZING IT, WE HAD DESTROYED EV-ERYTHING. NOT JUST OUR OWN SPECIES, BUT ALL THE PLANTS AND ANI-MALS ON EARTH HAD FALLEN VICTIM TO US.
WE HAD TRAMPLED OVER ALL LIFE!


YOU SPOILED THIS CHANCE OFFERED BY GOD. LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE.
YES. THAT'S RIGHT. YOU GET IT...
YOU PILLAGE NATURE AND DEPRIVE IT OF LIFE... THEN YOU DEFILE THE REALM OF GOD WITH YOUR BLOOD-STAINED HANDS...
AND THAT'S NOT ALL...
YOU ARE CRIMINALS!
...TO DESTROY OUR EARTH WITH YOUR WARS!
AND.. YOU TRIED...
JUDGED AND SENTENCED BY THE LAWS OF NATURE!
THAT IS WHY YOU MUST BE JUDGED!


JUMP OFF THAT CLIFF!
WALK!
NOW GO!



GAH!
CONDOR!
WHAT WAS I...?
OH, YEAH!
THAT DOG WAS...

GRRRRRR...
HHK
SHIT!
THAT'S WHAT IT WAS!
BAS-TARD HYPNO-TIZED ME!
I'LL NEVER LET THIS WORLD GO TO THE DOGS!
GOD-DAMN COWARD MUTT!
BUT I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!

AH!
EVEN WITH OUR MISTAKES, OUR WEAKNESSES, THE FUTURE OF THE EARTH BELONGS TO MAN!

!?
AAGH!

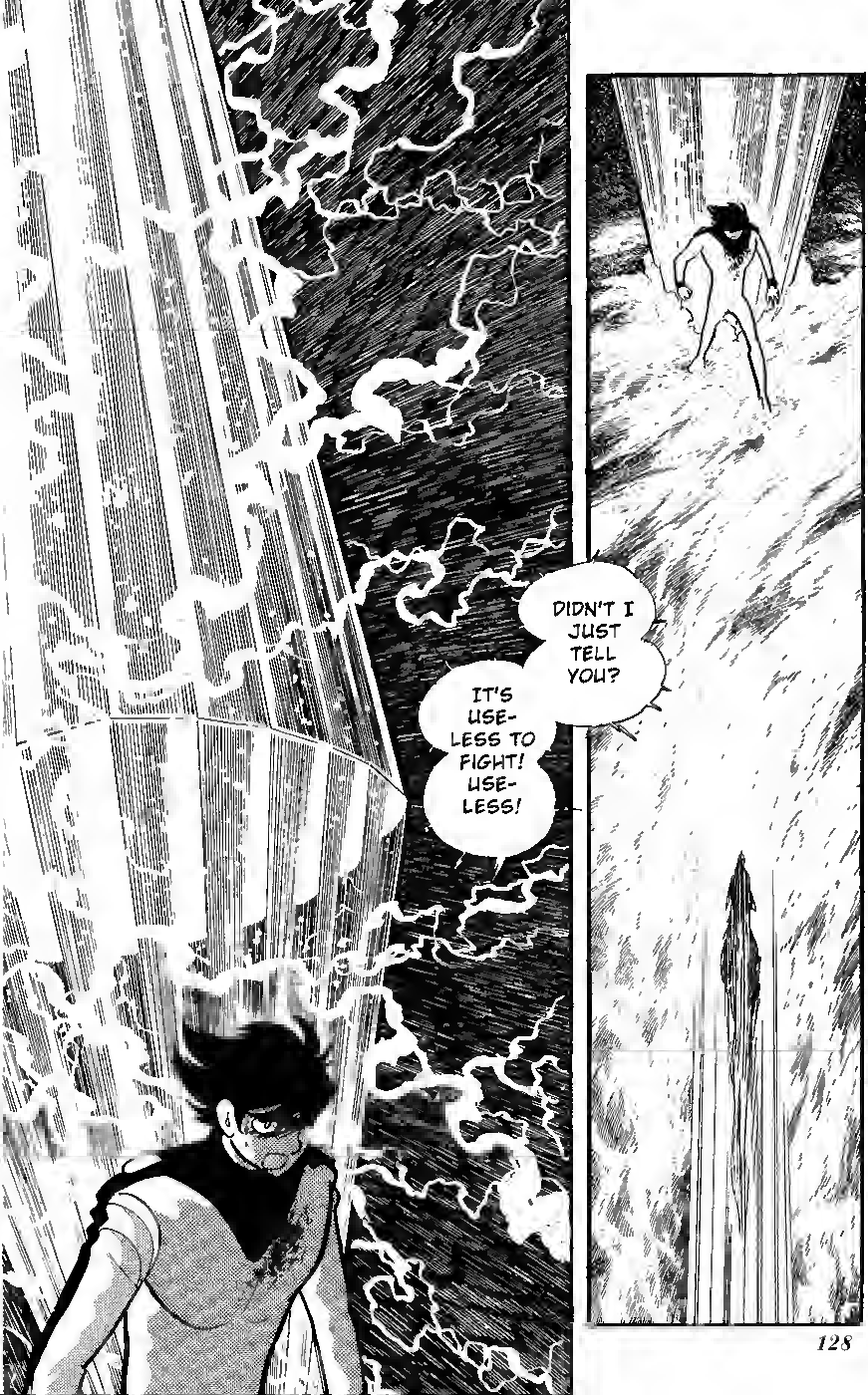
エエエ

HE...
EH?
...DISAP-PEARED ?
GRR?

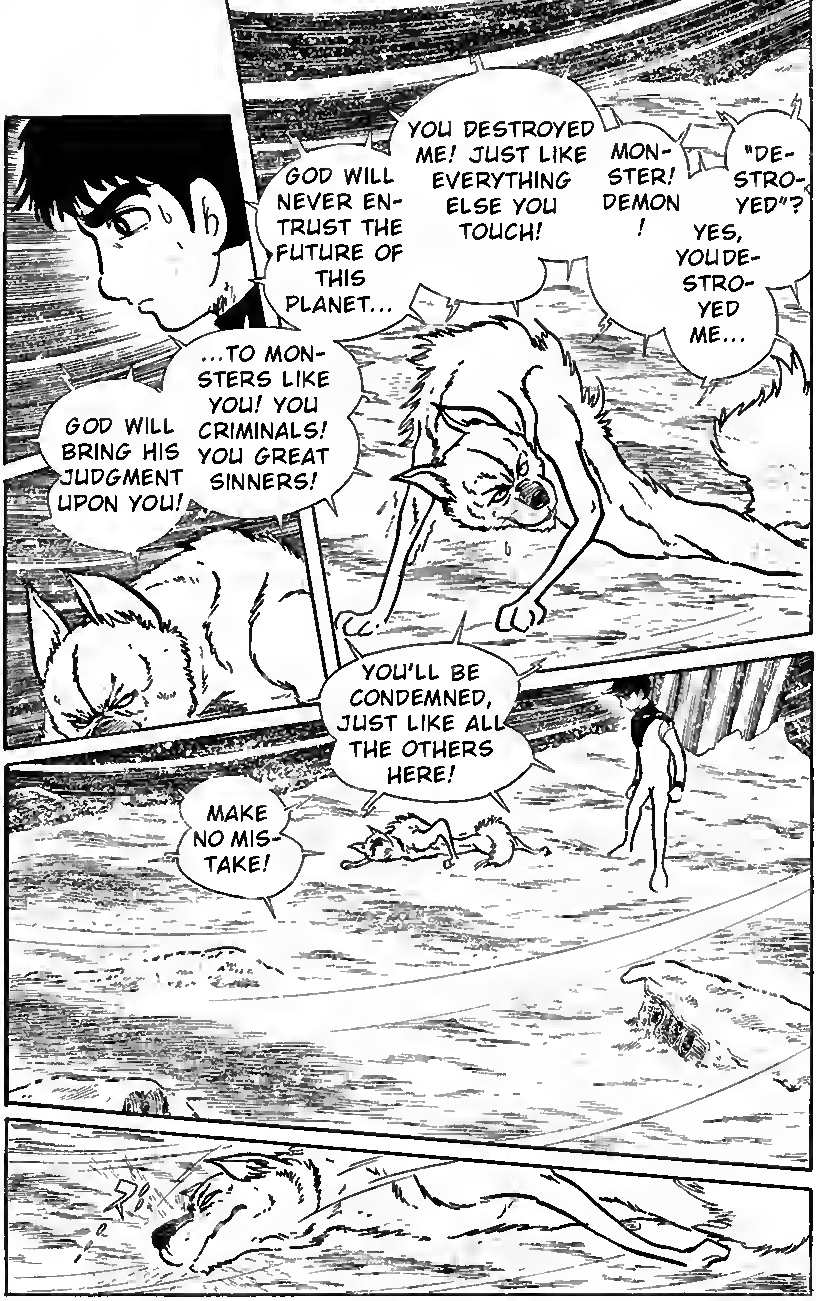
NO... I DIDN'T "DISAP-PEAR"...
I TELE-PORT-ED!
AND IT WAS A REAL POWER, NOT SOME BOGUS TRICK LIKE YOURS!

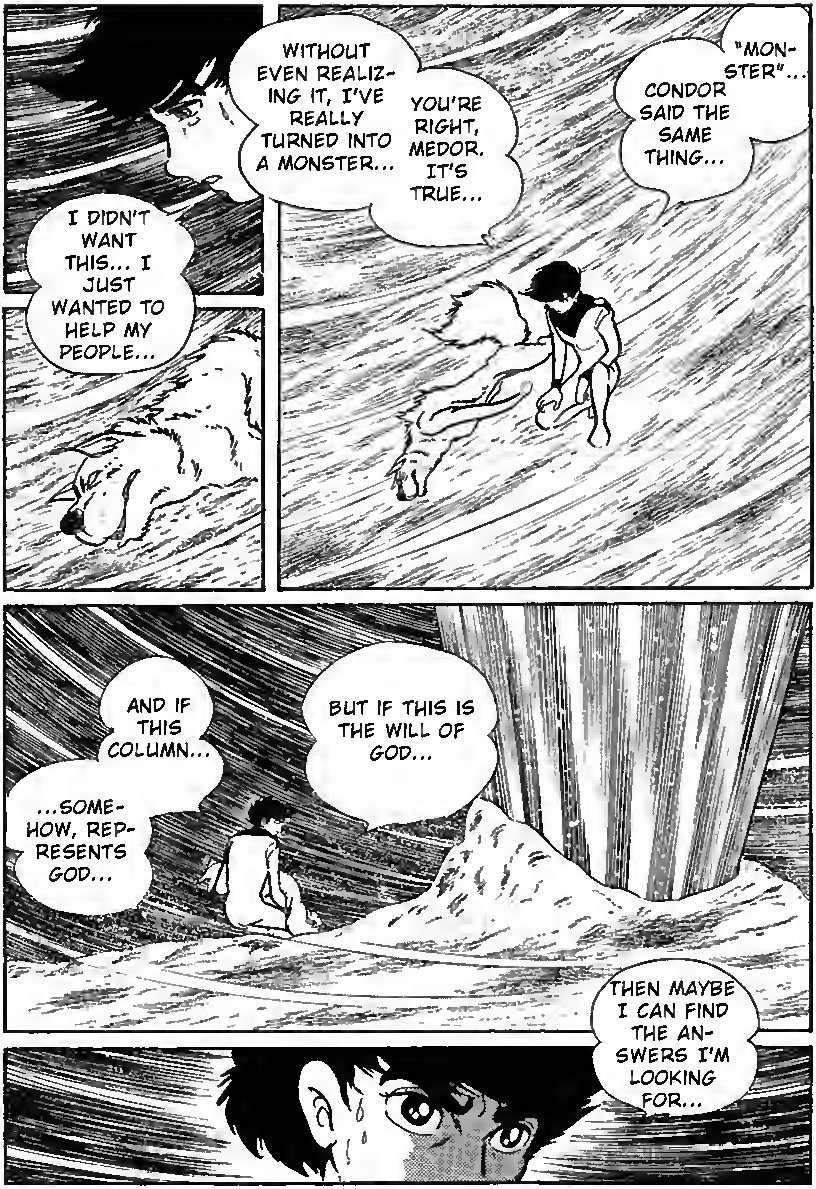
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LET GO WHEN YOU HAD MY NECK...
EVEN IF IT MEANT GOING DOWN WITH ME.
YOU SHOULD'VE PIERCED MY ARTERIES WITH YOUR FANGS WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE AND KILLED ME FOR GOOD!
GRRRR!
BUT NOW IT'S TOO LATE...
I'VE GOT YOU AND YOUR TRICKS ALL FIGURED OUT!
YOUR HYPNOSIS IS USELESS AGAINST ME NOW!

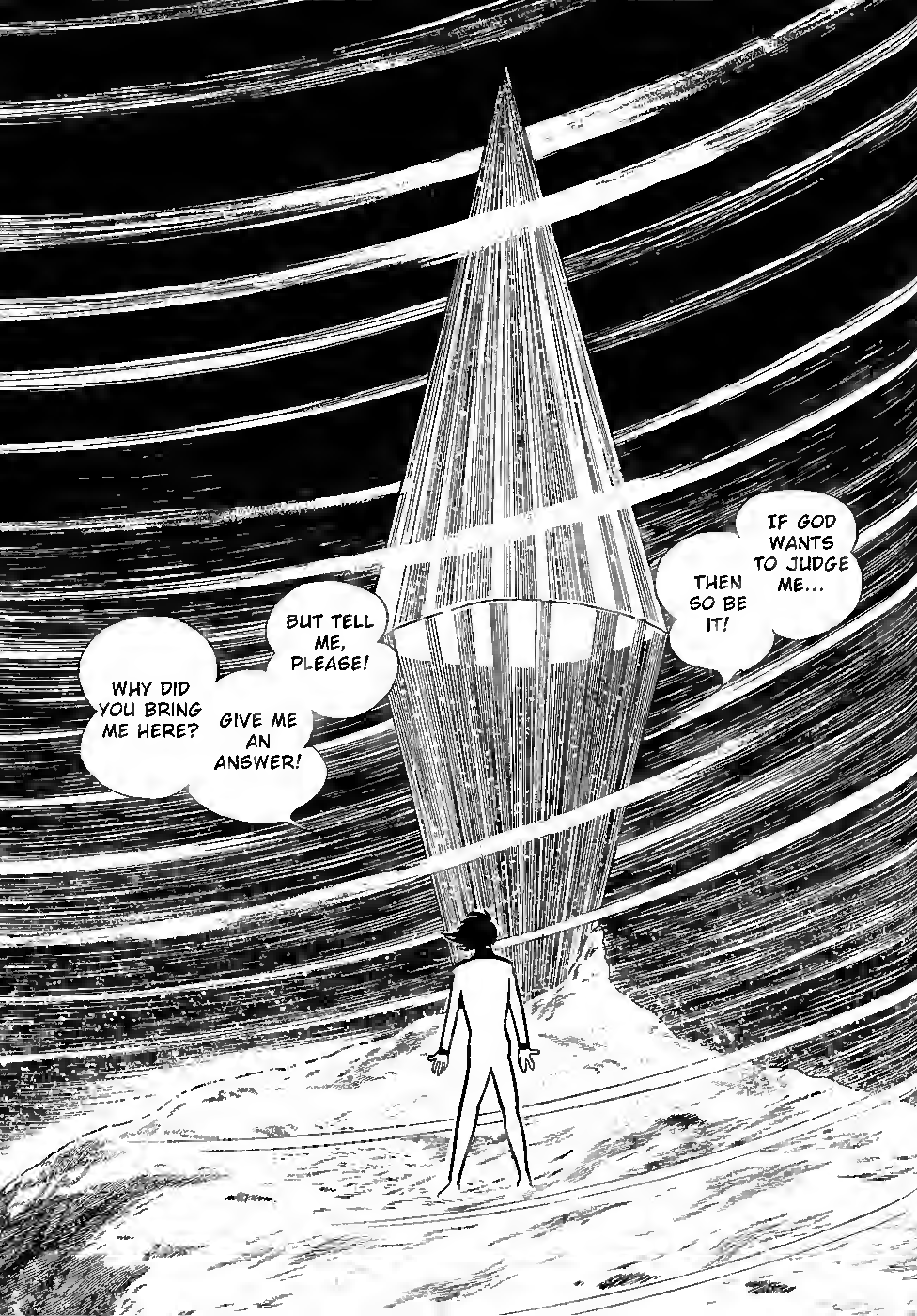
DIDN'T I JUST TELL YOU?
IT'S USE-LESS TO FIGHT! USE-LESS!

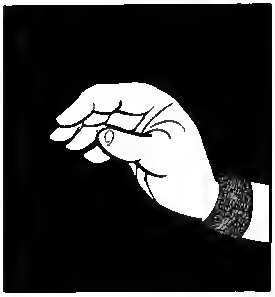

DIDN'T I JUST TELL YOU?
IT'S USE-LESS TO FIGHT! USE-LESS!

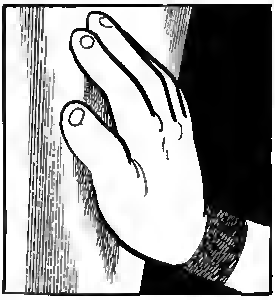
YOU... WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?
RYU!
I DESTROYED THE MUSCLES IN YOUR LOWER BODY.
THE REST WILL SOON FOLLOW.
I'VE WON THIS FIGHT, MEDOR...
I WISH WE COULD HAVE SETTLED THIS ANOTHER WAY...

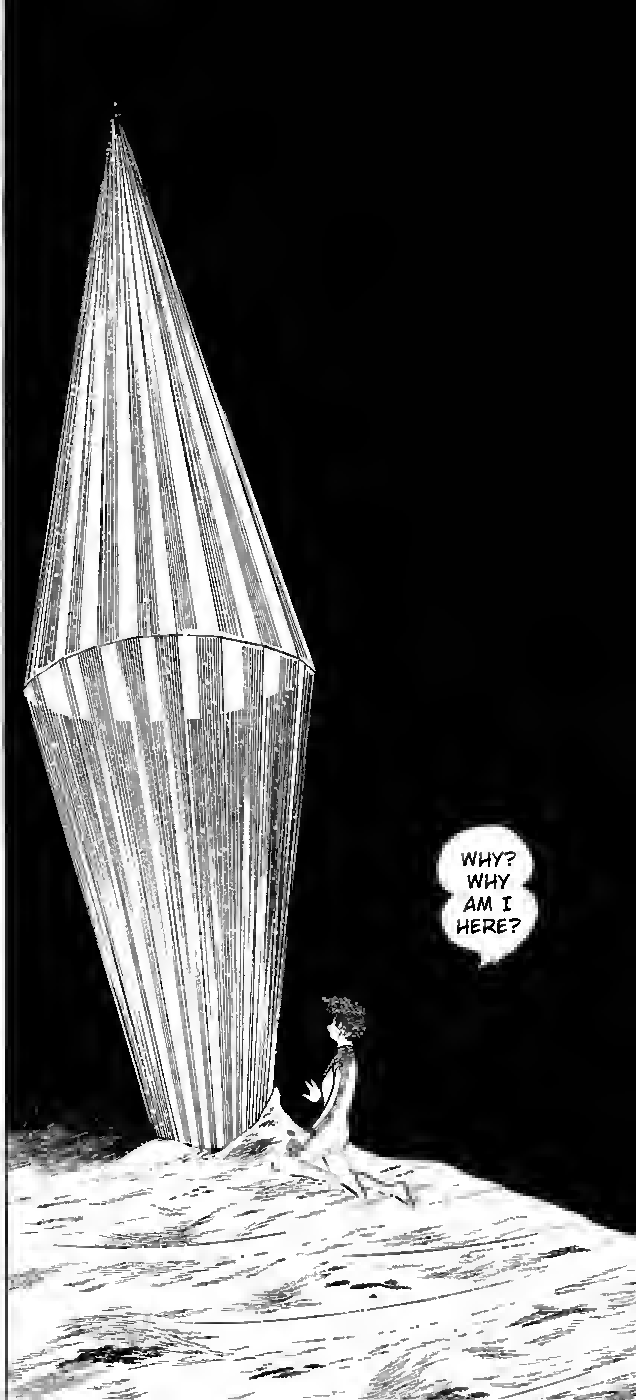

GOD WILL NEVER ENTRUST THE FUTURE OF THIS PLANET...
YOU DESTROYED ME! JUST LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE YOU TOUCH!
MONSTER! DEMON!
"DESTROYED"?
YES, YOU DESTROYED ME...
...TO MONSTERS LIKE YOU! YOU CRIMINALS! YOU GREAT SINNERS!
GOD WILL BRING HIS JUDGMENT UPON YOU!
YOU'LL BE CONDEMNED, JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS HERE!
MAKE NO MISTAKE!

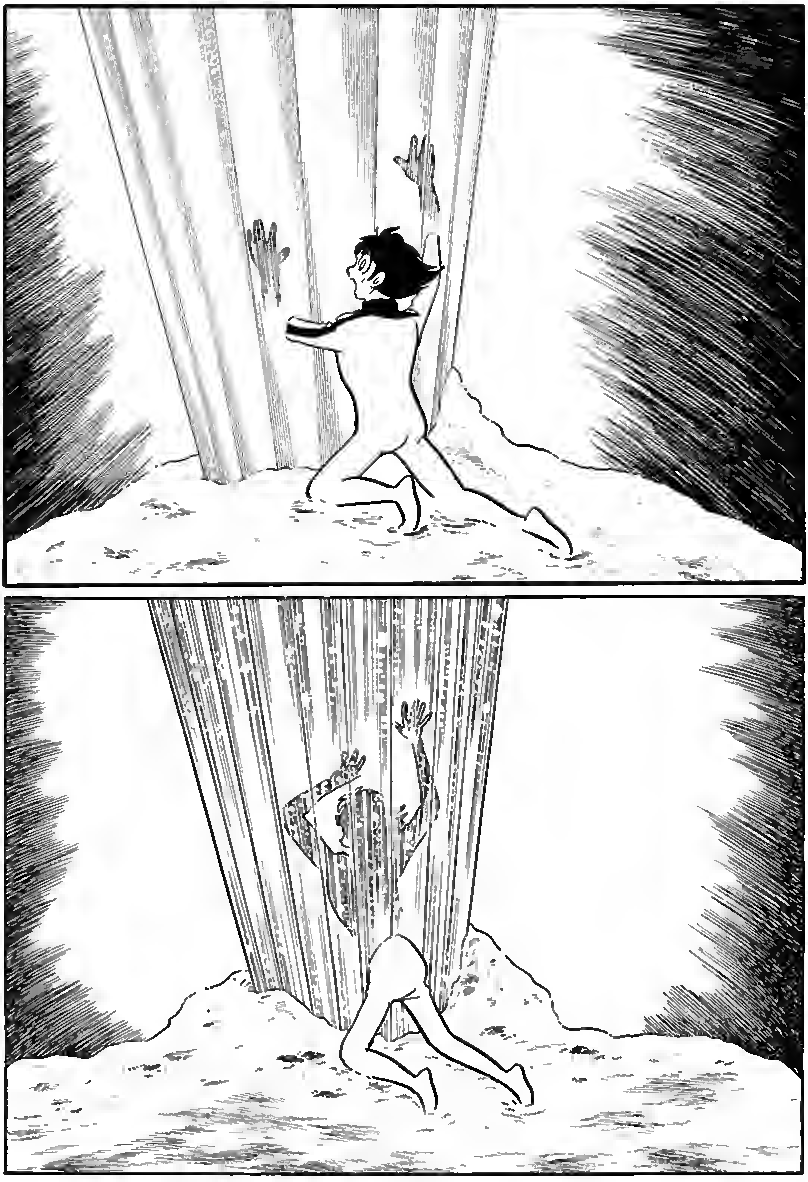

I DIDN'T WANT THIS... I JUST WANTED TO HELP MY PEOPLE...
WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT, I'VE REALLY TURNED INTO A MONSTER...
YOU'RE RIGHT, MEDOR. IT'S TRUE...
"MONSTER"... CONDOR SAID THE SAME THING...
...SOMEHOW, REPRESENTS GOD...
AND IF THIS COLUMN...
BUT IF THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD...
THEN MAYBE I CAN FIND THE ANSWERS I'M LOOKING FOR...

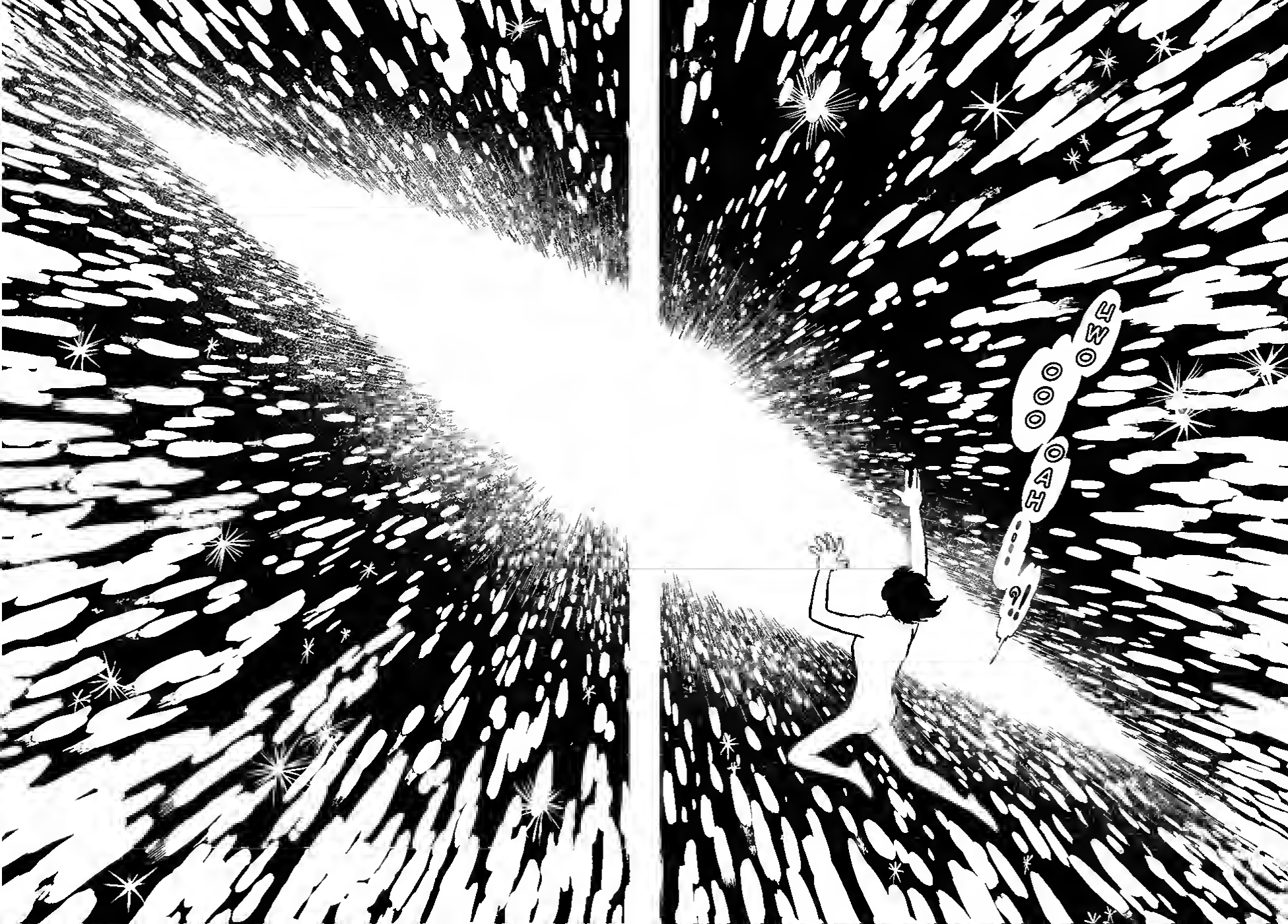

WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
GIVE ME AN ANSWER!
BUT TELL ME, PLEASE!
IF GOD WANTS TO JUDGE ME...
THEN SO BE IT!

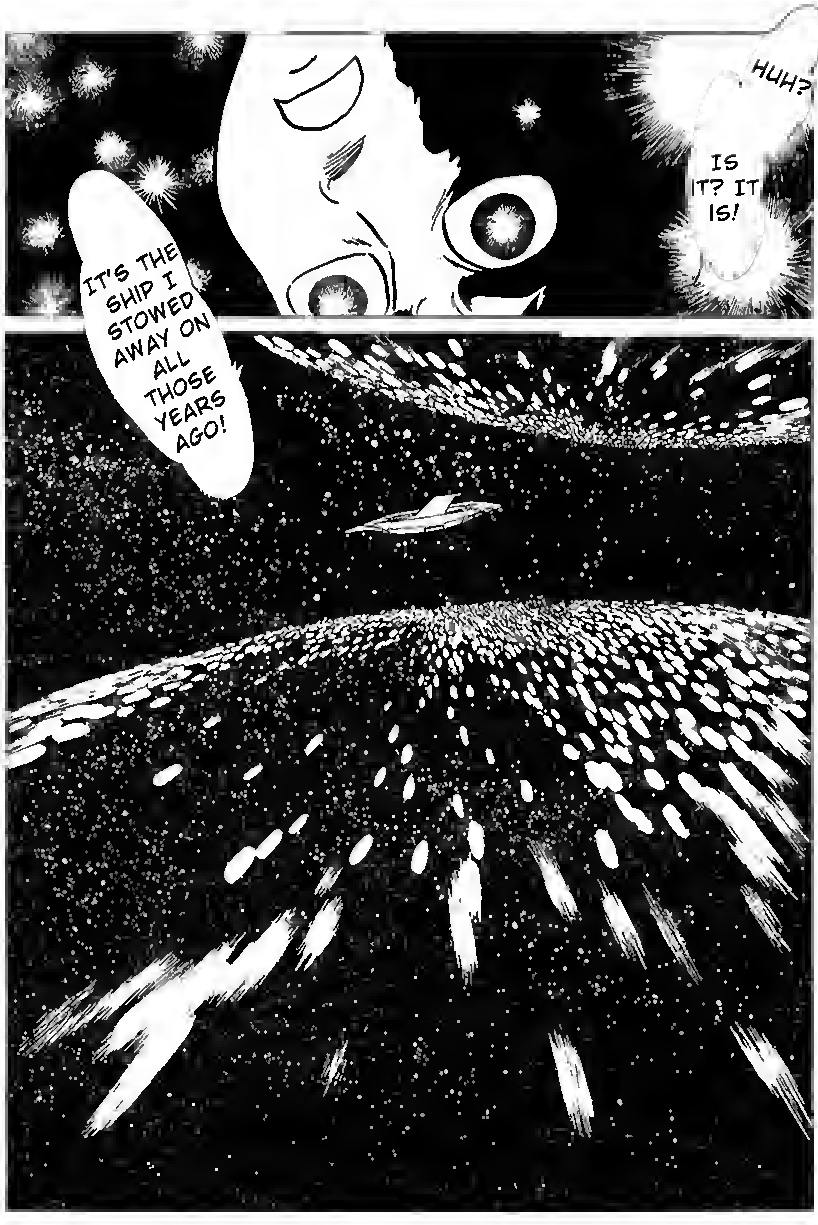


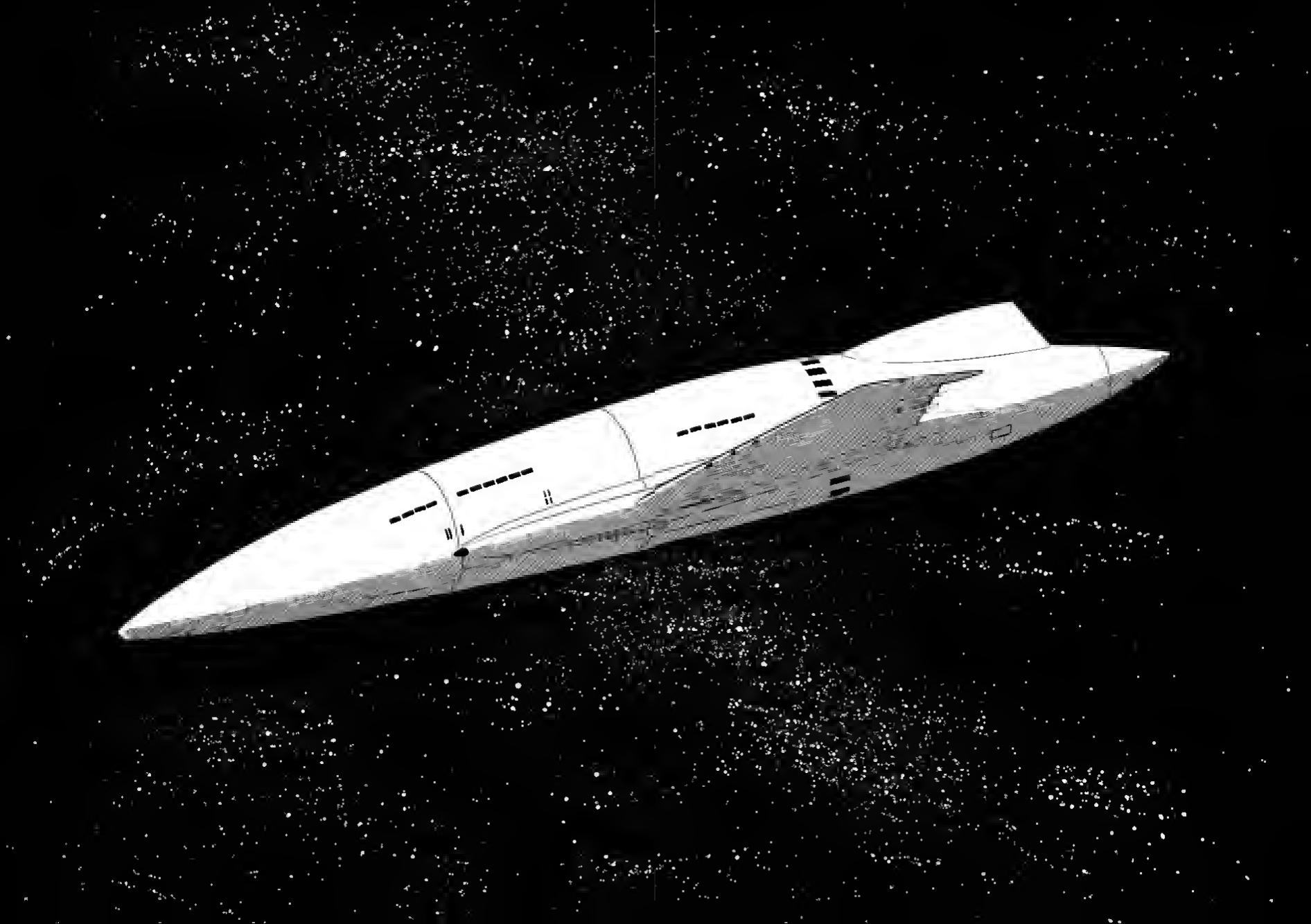


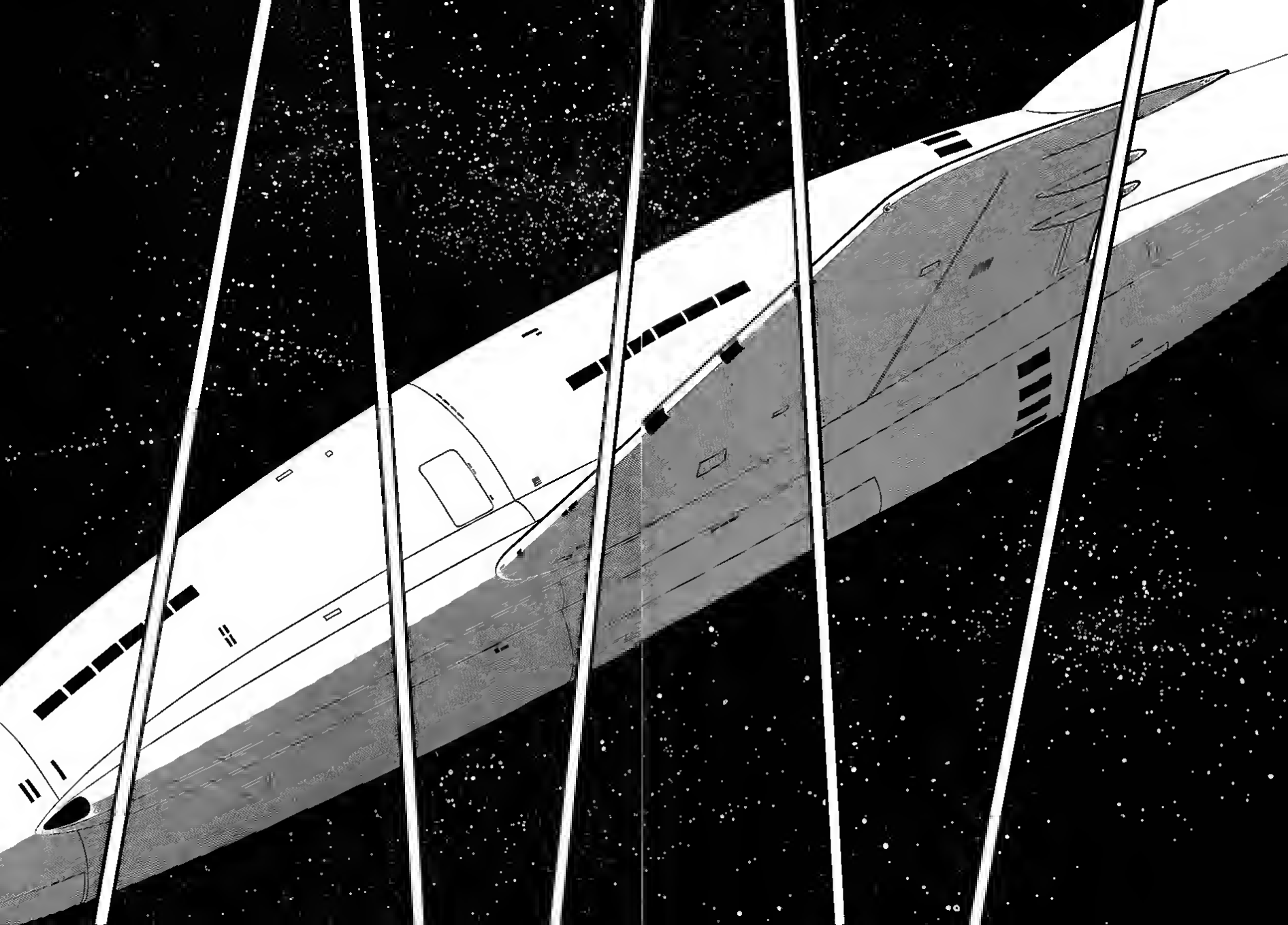

WHY? WHY AM I HERE?

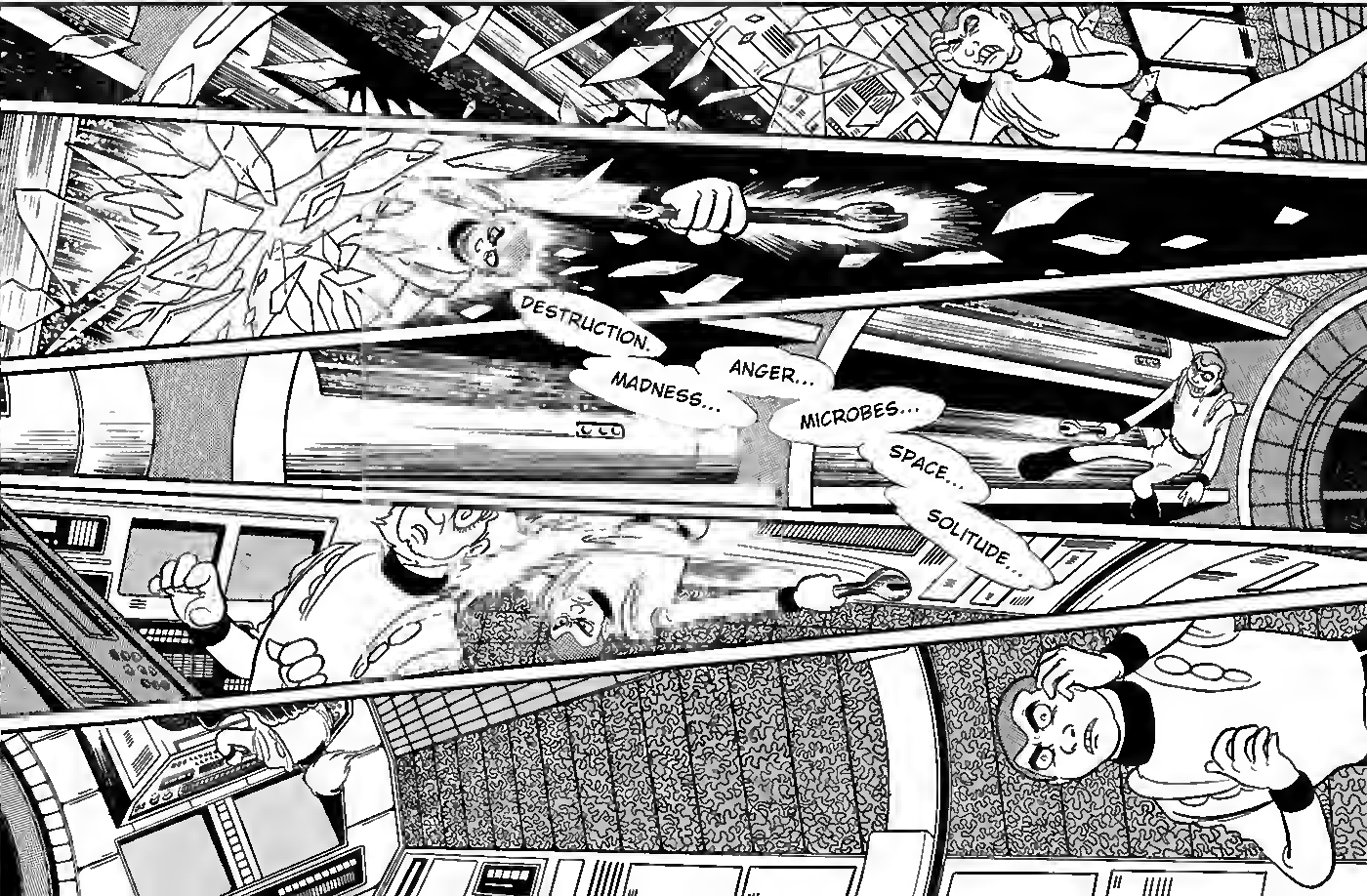


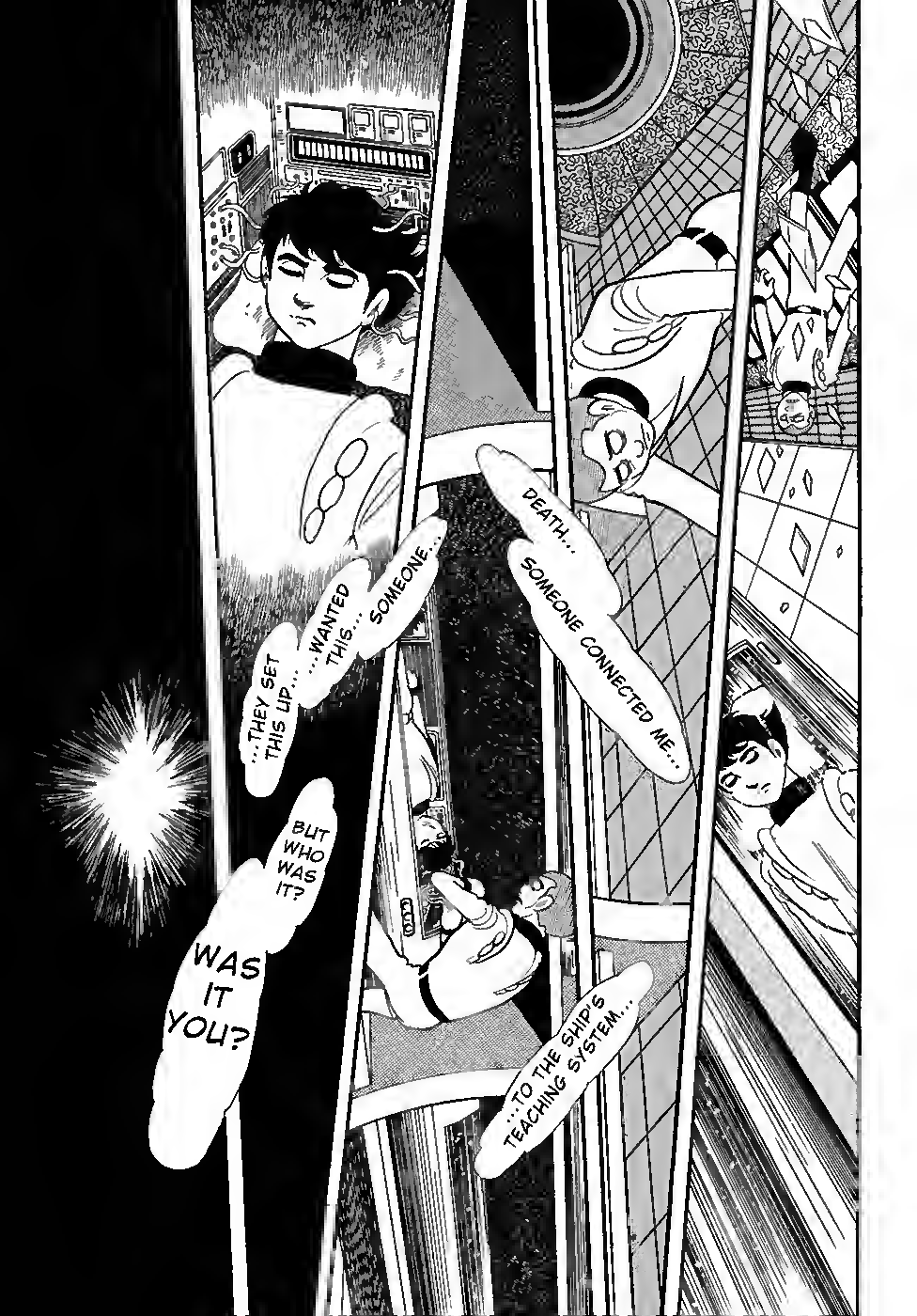

WOOOOOAH!!


HUH?
IS IT? IT IS!
IT'S THE SHIP I STOWED AWAY ON ALL THOSE YEARS AGO!



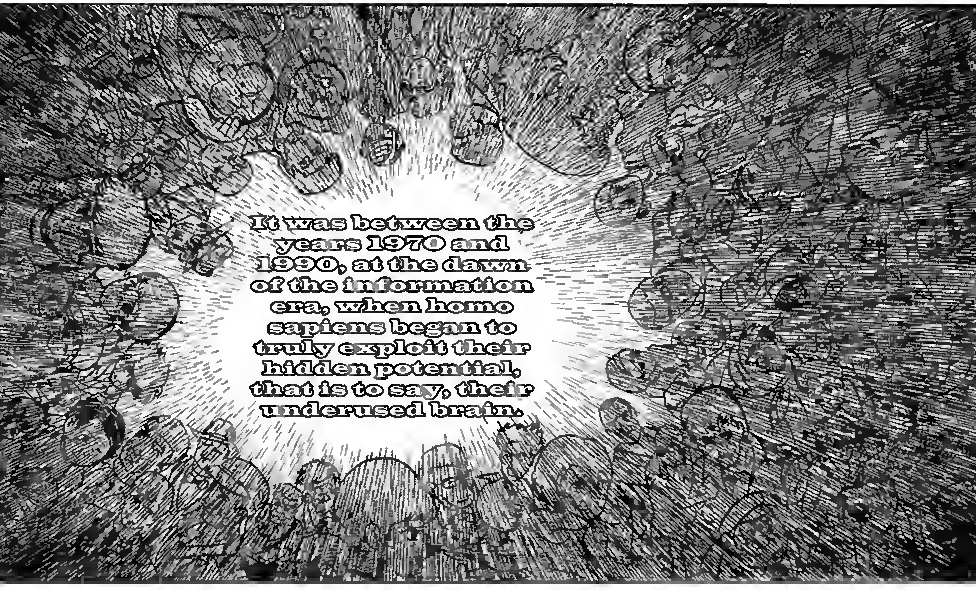


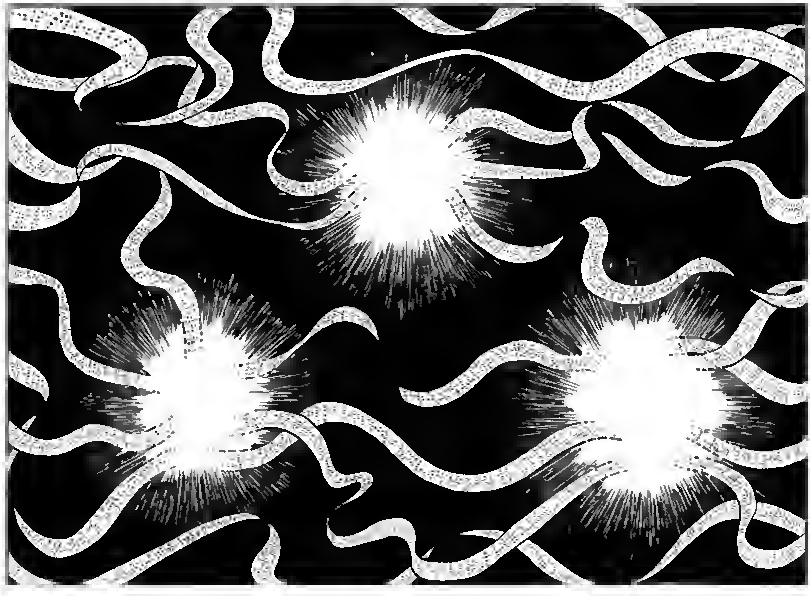

DESTRUCTION.
MADNESS...
ANGER...
MICROBES...
SPACE...
SOLITUDE...

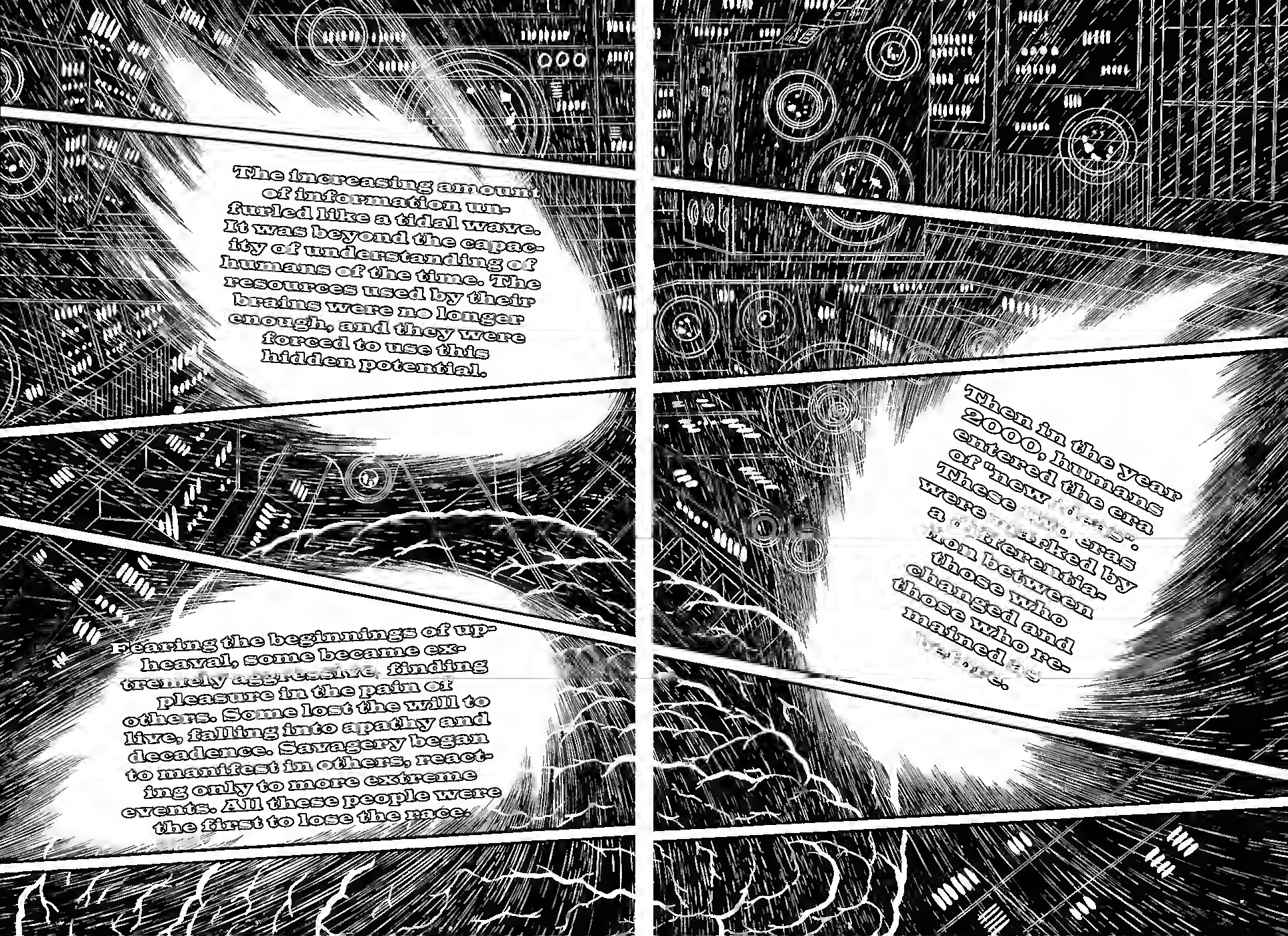

...TO THE SHIP'S TEACHING SYSTEM...
DEATH... SOMEONE CONNECTED ME...
...THEY SET THIS UP... ...WANTED THIS... SOMEONE...
BUT WHO WAS IT?
WAS IT YOU?

WHO ARE YOU?
TELL ME...
WHY?
FOR ME?
WHY ALL THIS?
Yes, it was I! I
m here so that
your con-
science may
fully awaken.
o that you may
learn to use
ALL of your
powers!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?
TELL ME?
WHY?
WHY?
WHO ARE YOU?

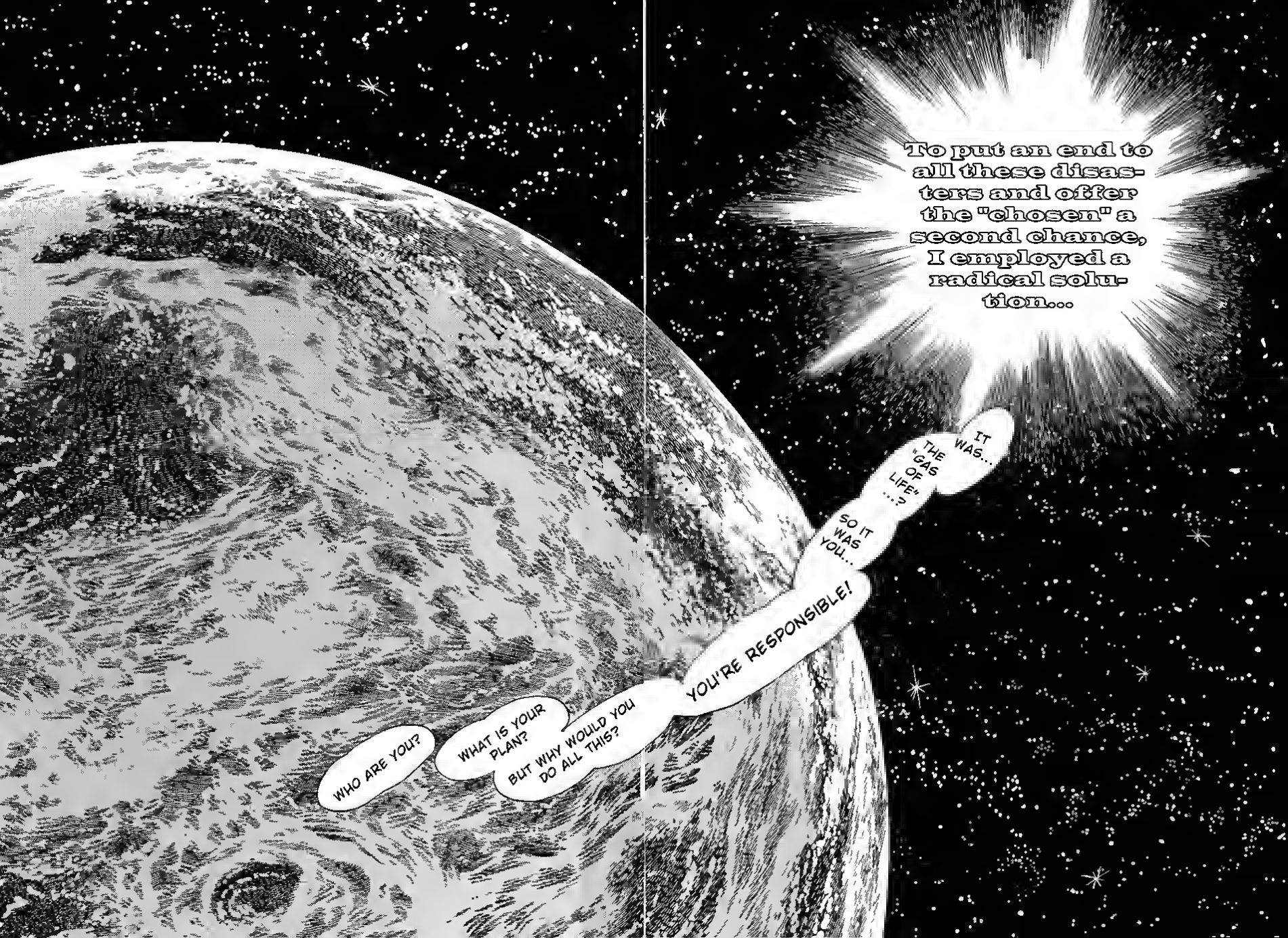
All humans can develop the ability to use their brain to its full extent, and all of the chosen few who have should know well of the same changes that are taking place within you.


It was between the years 1970 and 1990, at the dawn of the information era, when homo sapiens begnn to truly exploit their hidden potential, that is to say, their underused brain.

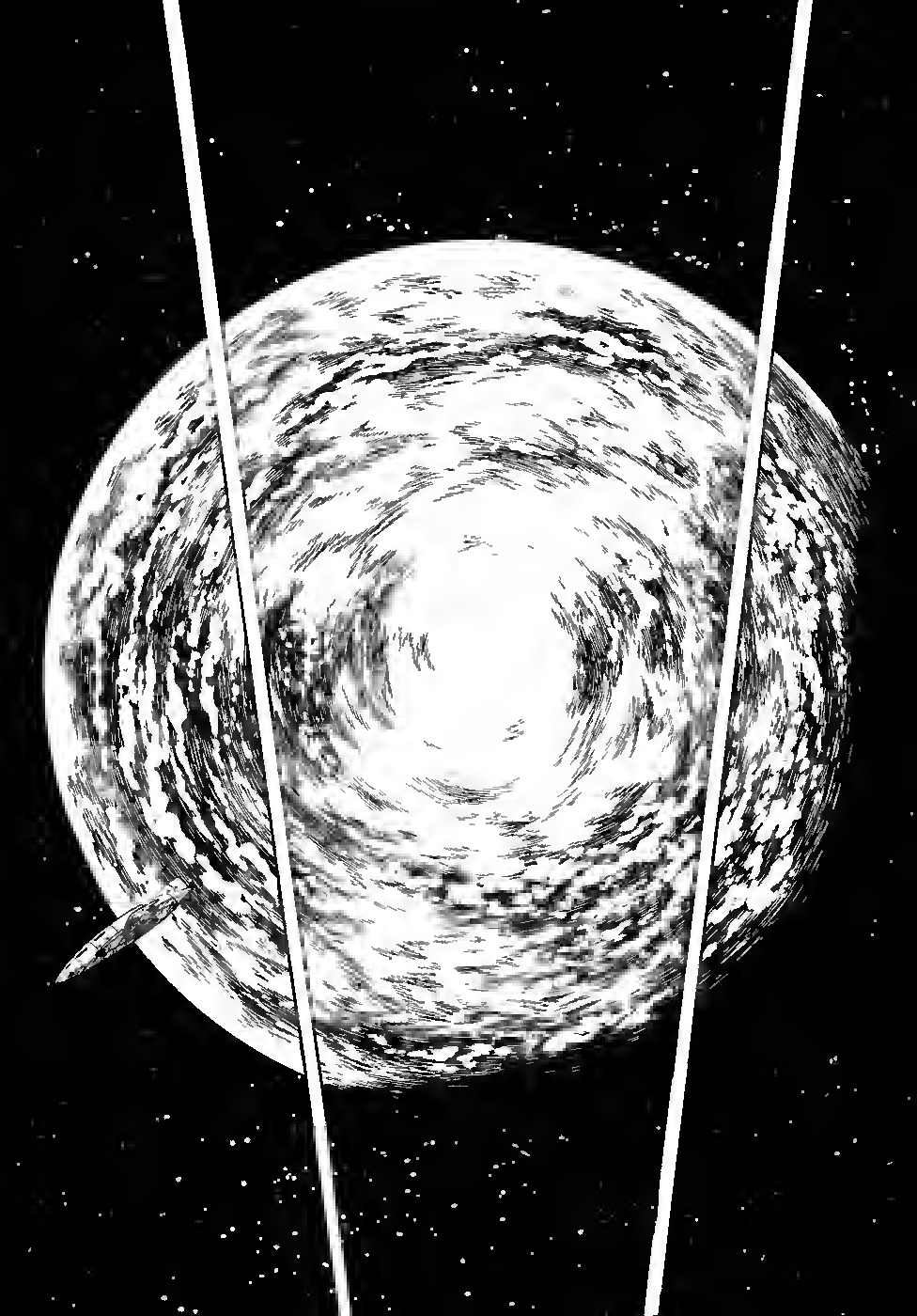


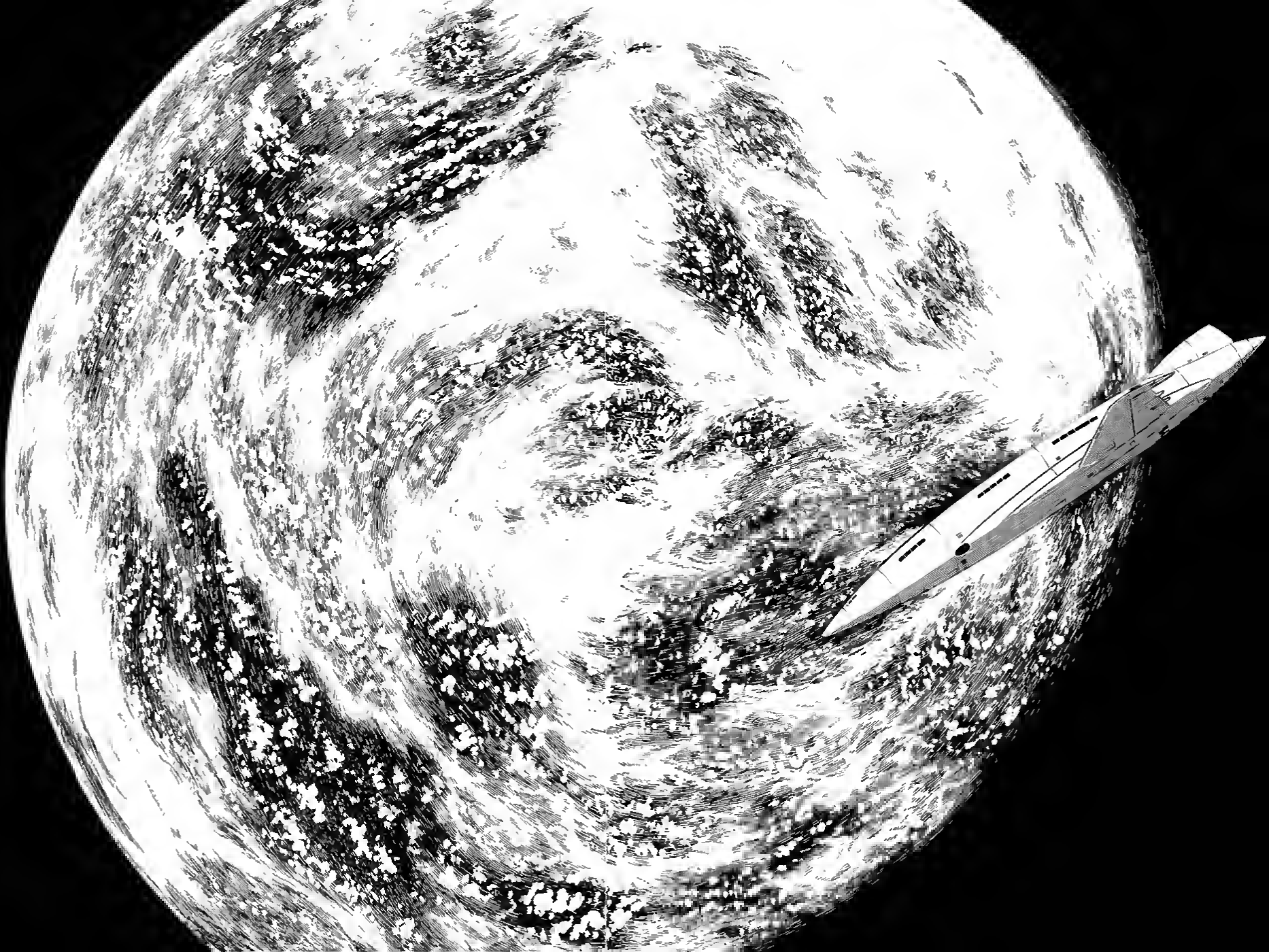

The increasing amount of information unfurled like a tidal wave. It was beyond the capacity of understanding of humans of the time. The resources used by their brains were no longer enough, and they were forced to use this hidden potential.
Then in the year 2000, humans entered the era of "new [illegible]". These [illegible] eras were marked by a "differentiation between those who changed and those who remained the [illegible].
Fearing the beginnings of upheaval, some became extremely aggressive, finding pleasure in the pain of others. Some lost the will to live, falling into apathy and decadence. Savagery began to manifest in others, reacting only to more extreme events. All these people were the first to lose the race.

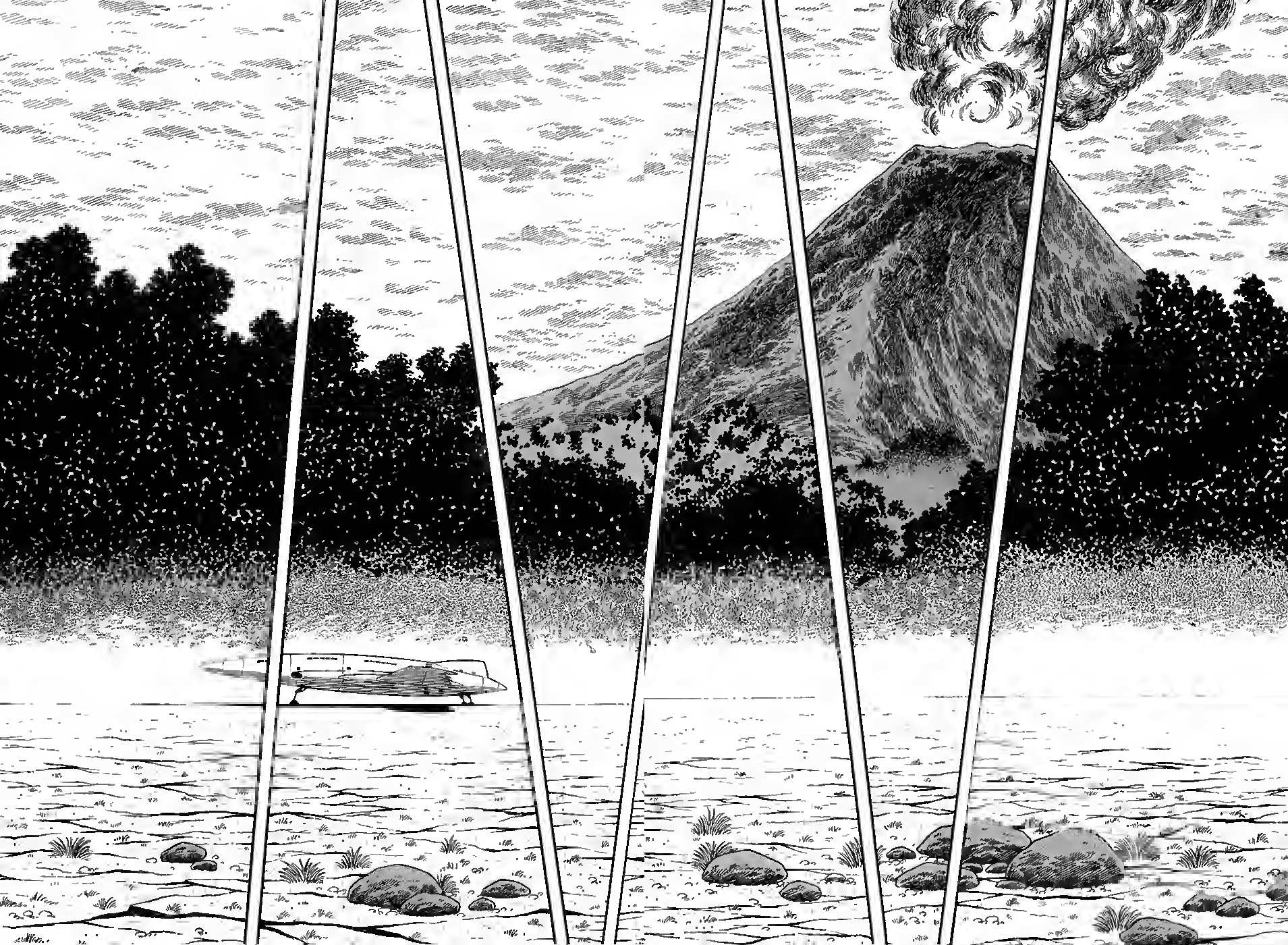
The egotists and the stubborn and short-sighted, were equally rejected. They made up two-thirds of the population. The worst thing for humanity was that the "rejected" were petty and perverse enough to bring the "chosen" to ruin...
...while the latter only needed time to become aware of their new role. The Earth experienced large-scale massacres, perpetrated by the egotists who sought after profit, leaving pollution everywhere.
It also experienced the "Ultimate War" decided by simpletons who only wanted an easy solution...

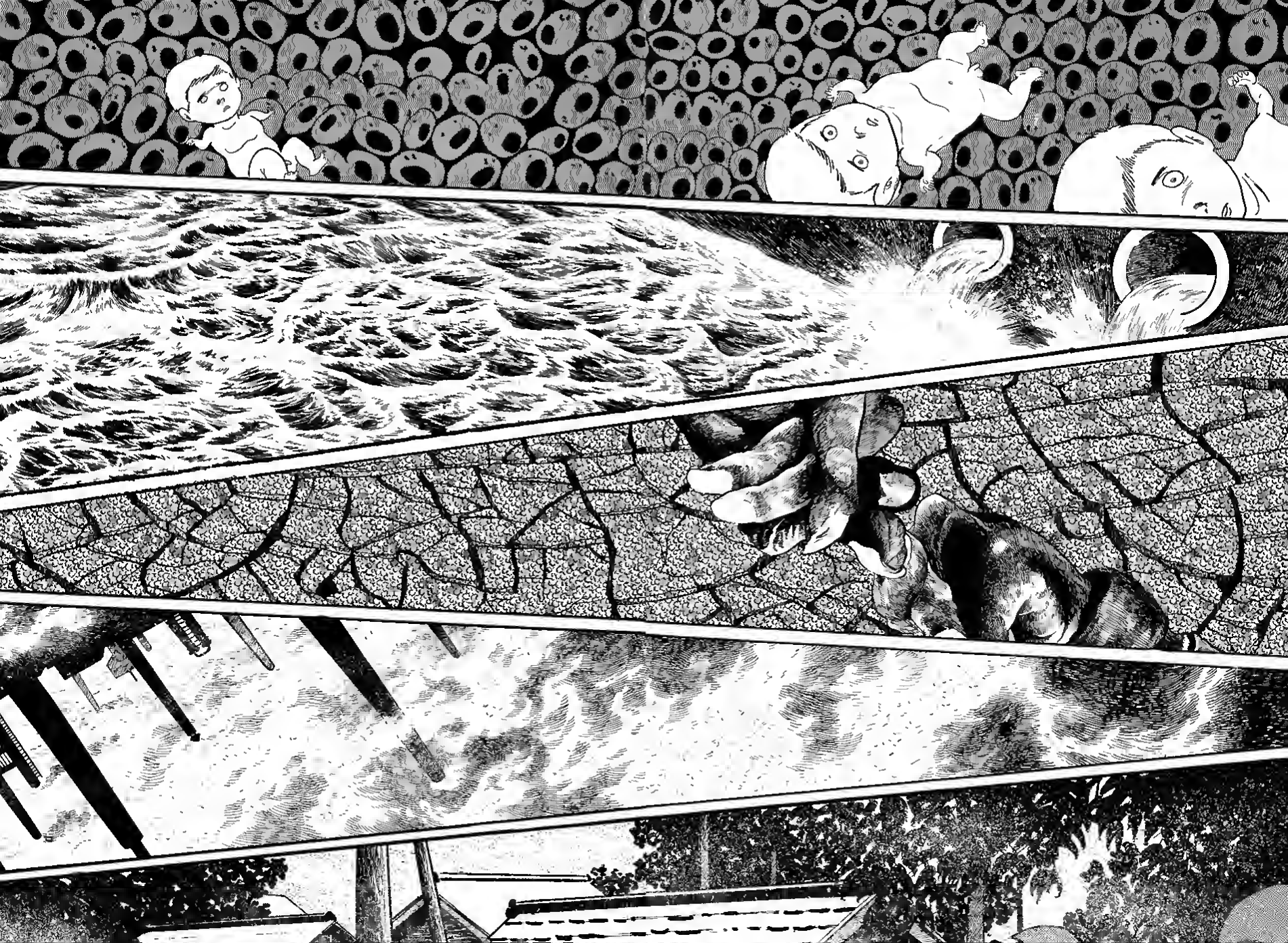

To put an end to all these disasters and offer the "chosen" a second chance, I employed a radical solution...
IT WAS...
THE "GAS OF LIFE"...?
SO IT WAS YOU...
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE!
BUT WHY WOULD YOU DO ALL THIS?
WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?
WHO ARE YOU?

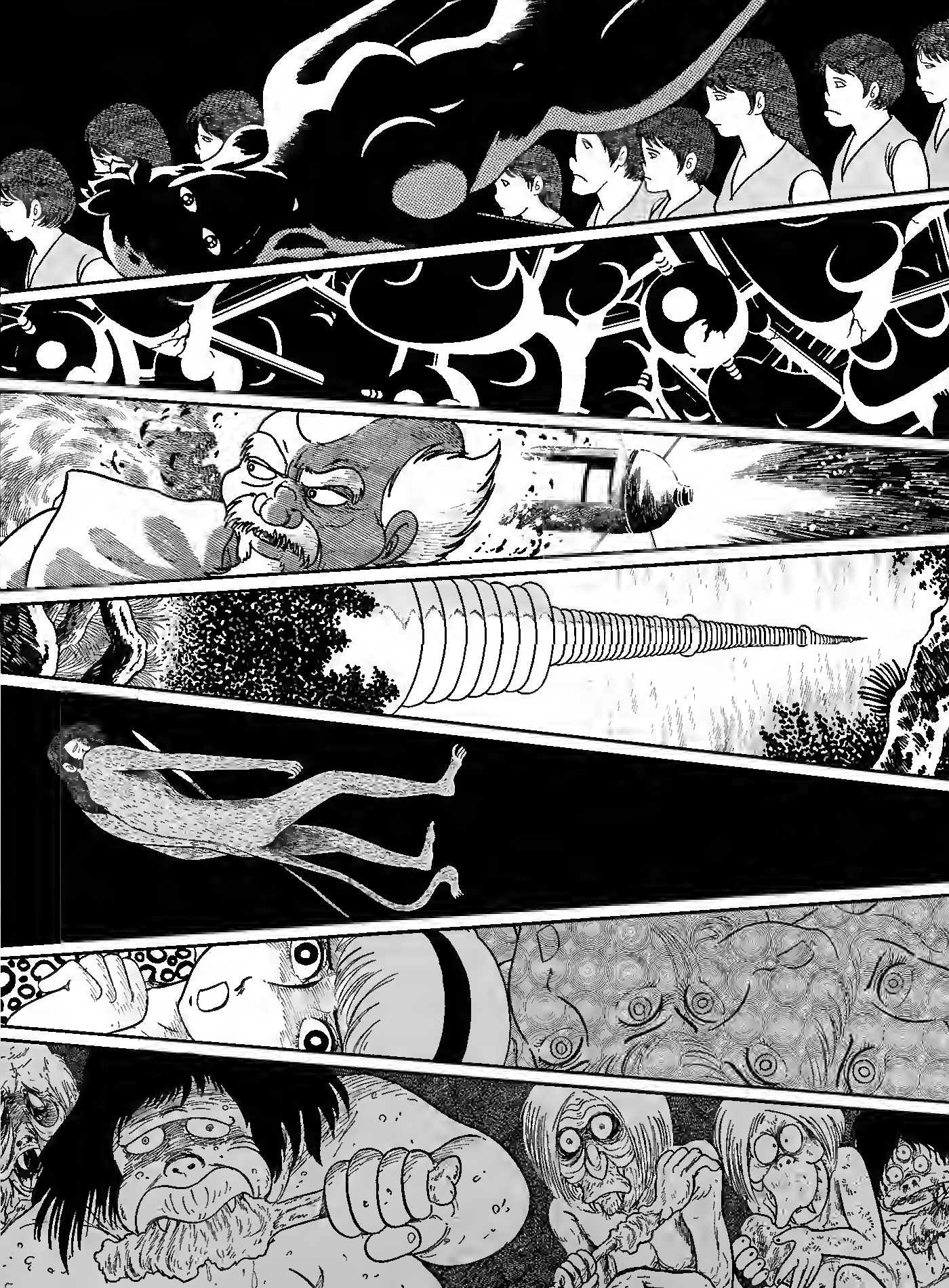
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TO HUMANITY?





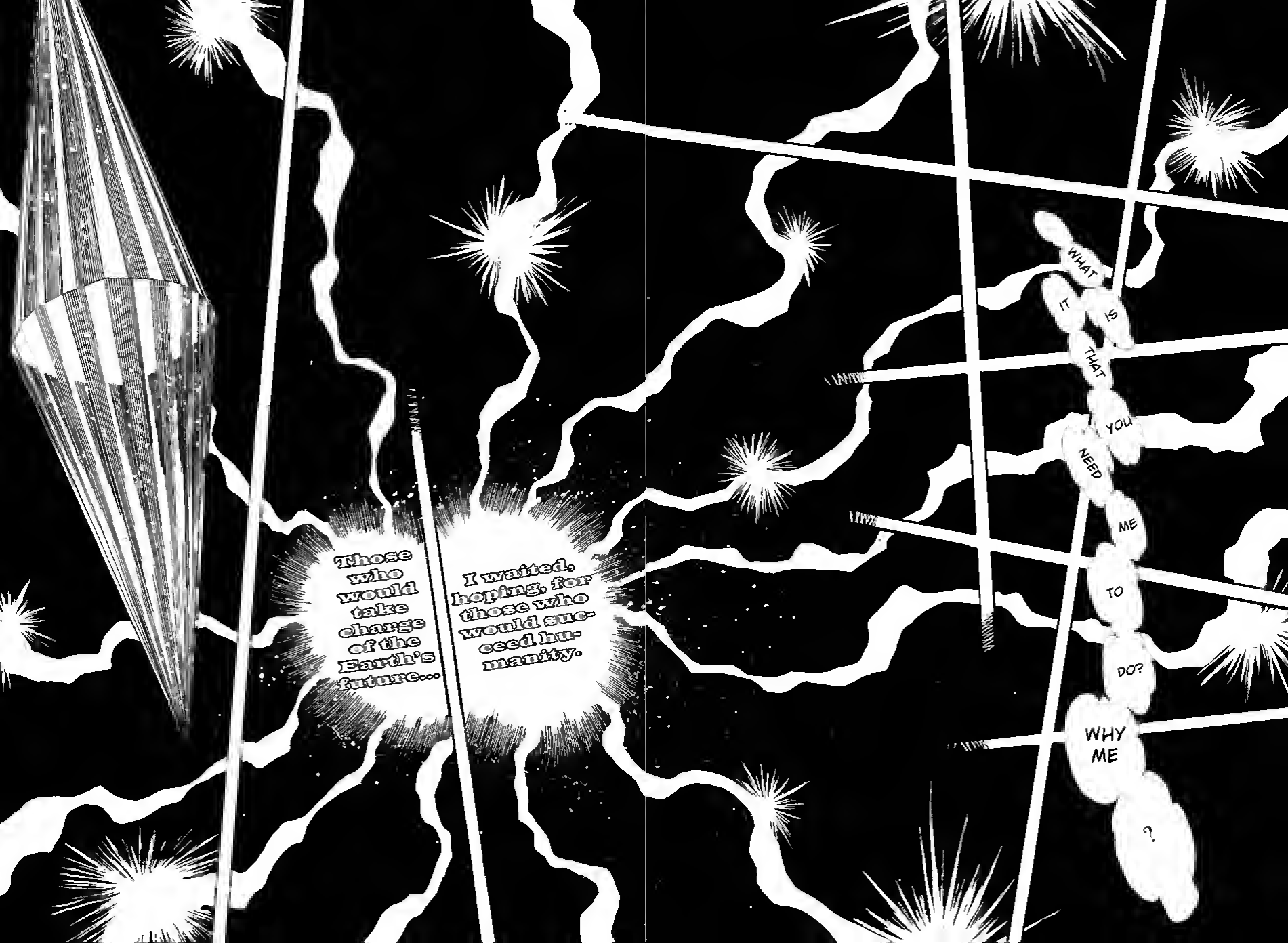


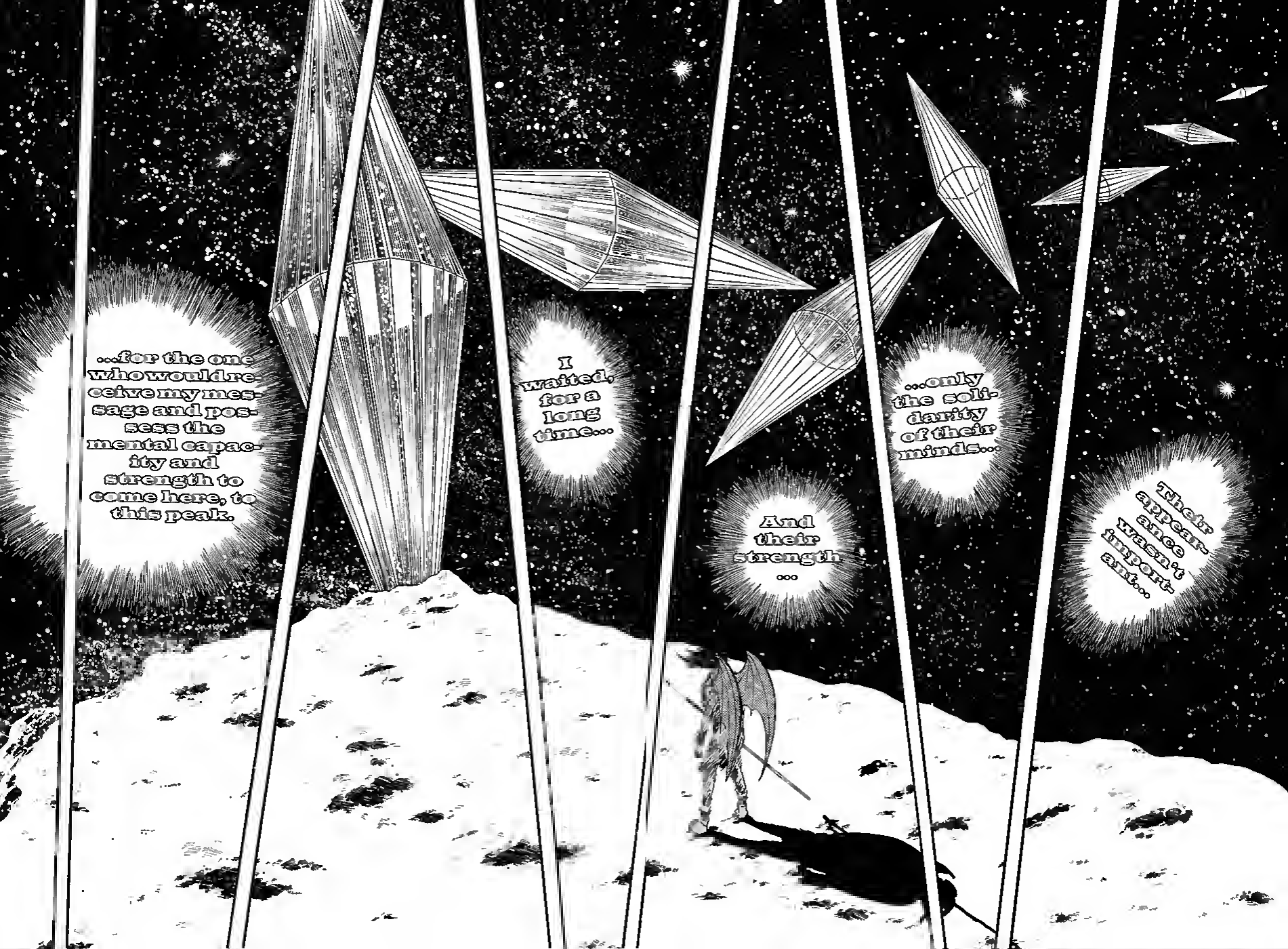


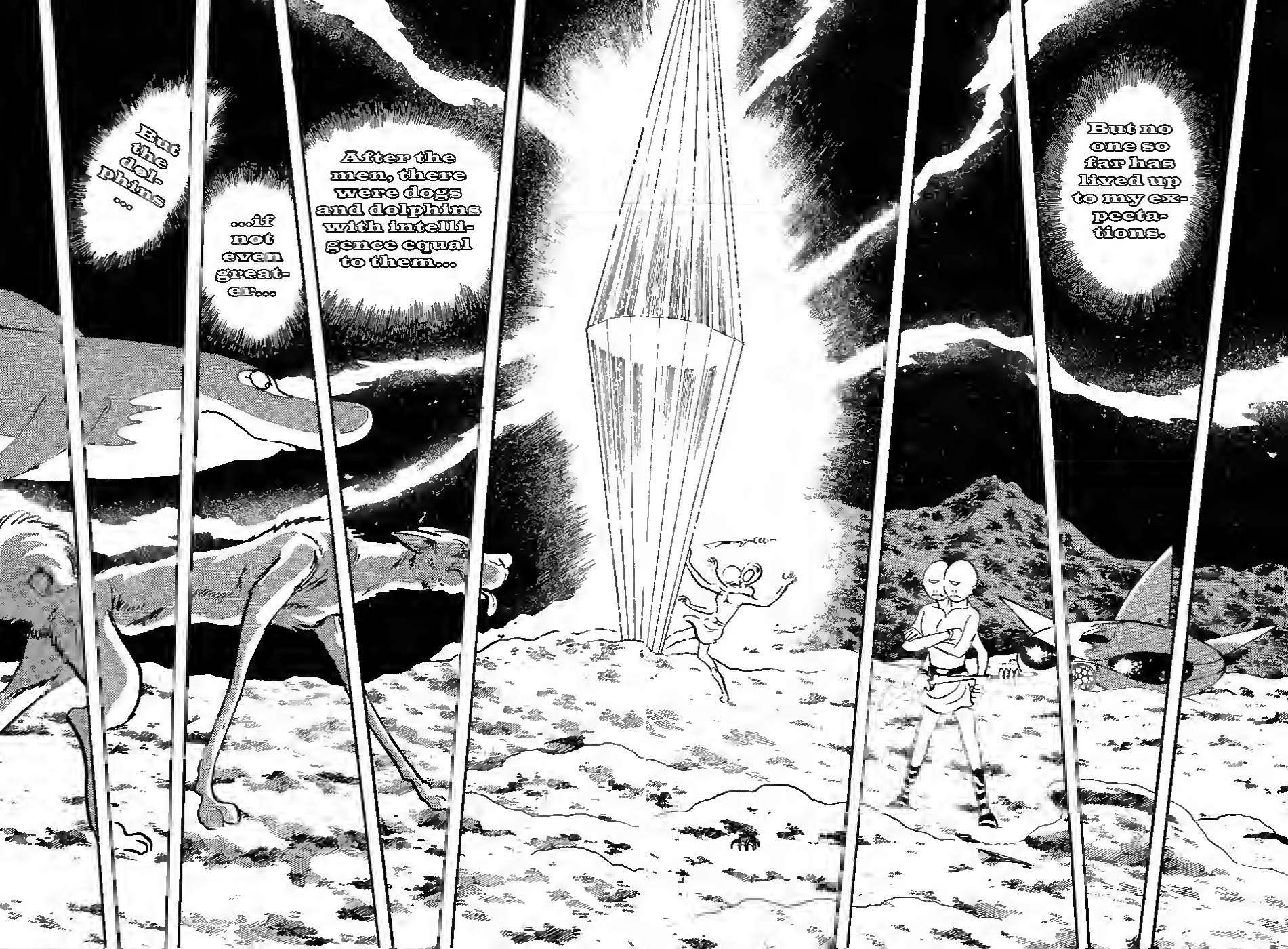


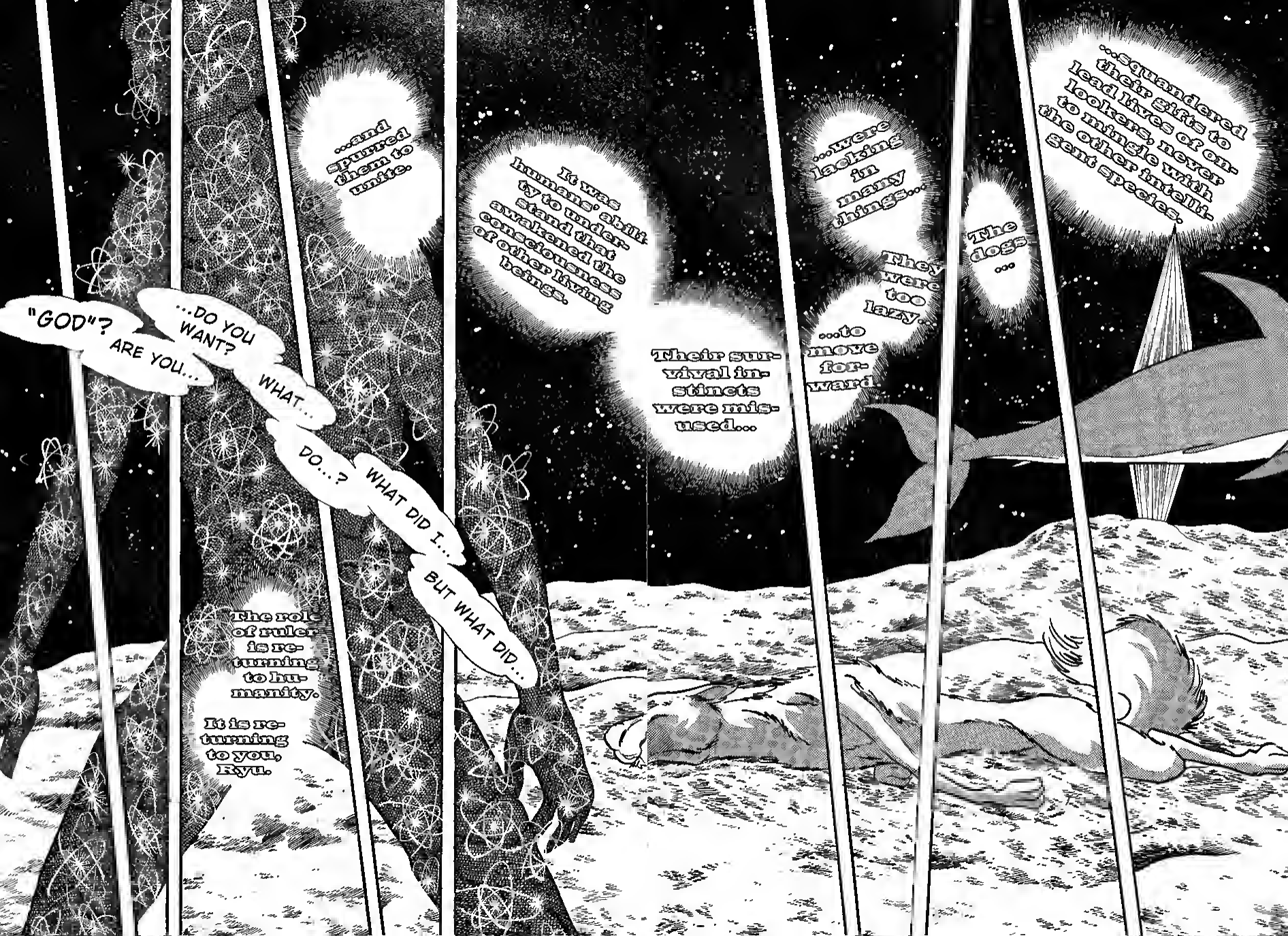
NAKED
loose bowels
Only-yw
footgear

WHO ARE YOU ?
TELL ME !
WHAT AM I SUP-POS-ED TO DO ?
DO WHAT YOU WANT ?


Those who would take charge of the Earth's future...
I waited, hoping, for those who would succeed humanity.
WHAT IT IS THAT YOU NEED ME TO DO?
WHY ME ?

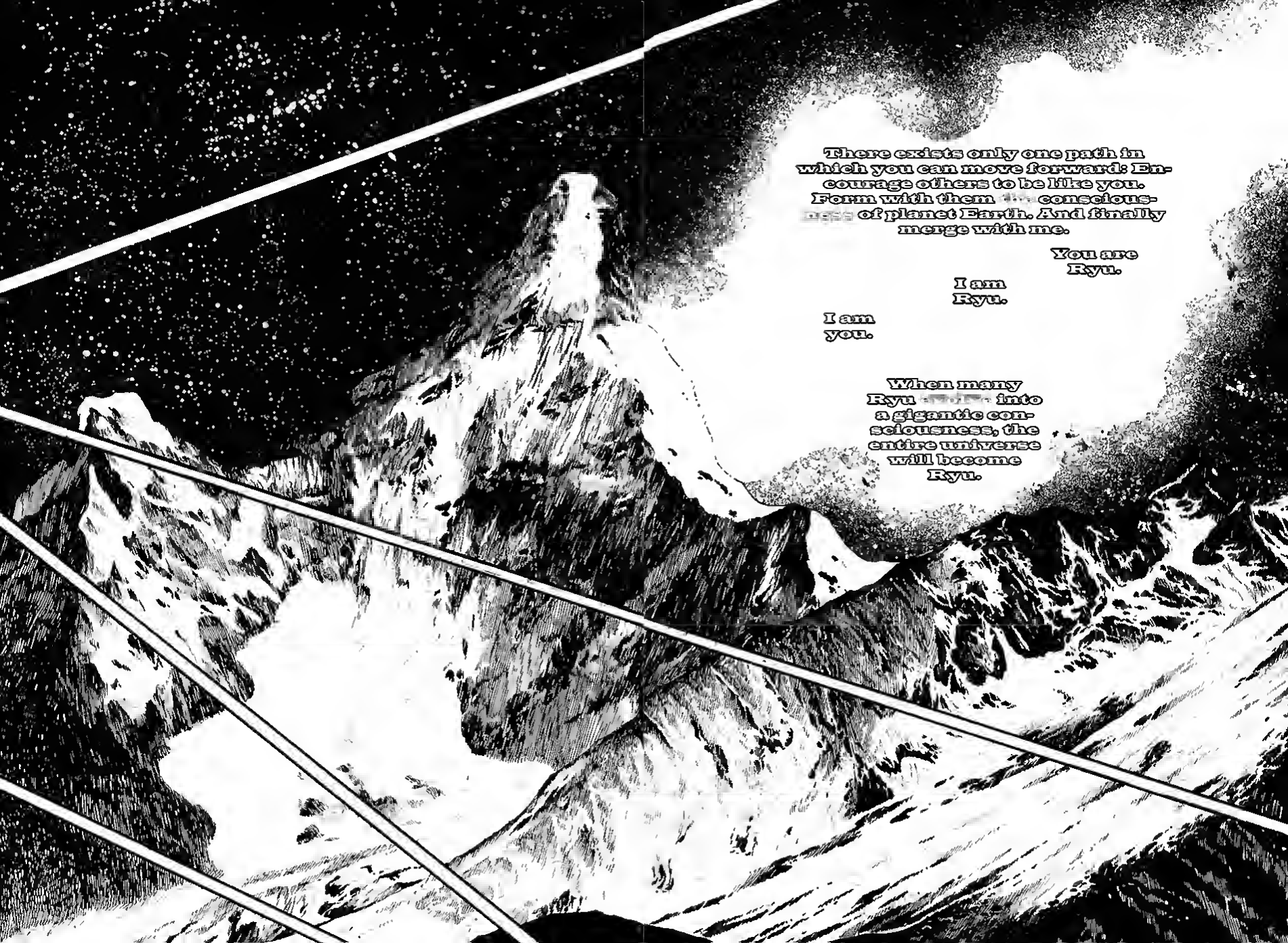

...for the one who would receive my message and possess the mental capacity and strength to come here, to this peak.
I waited, for a long time...
...only the solidarity of their minds...
Their appearance wasn't important...
And their strength ...


But the dolphins...
...if not even greater...
After the men, there were dogs and dolphins with intelligence equal to them...
But no one so far has lived up to my expectations.

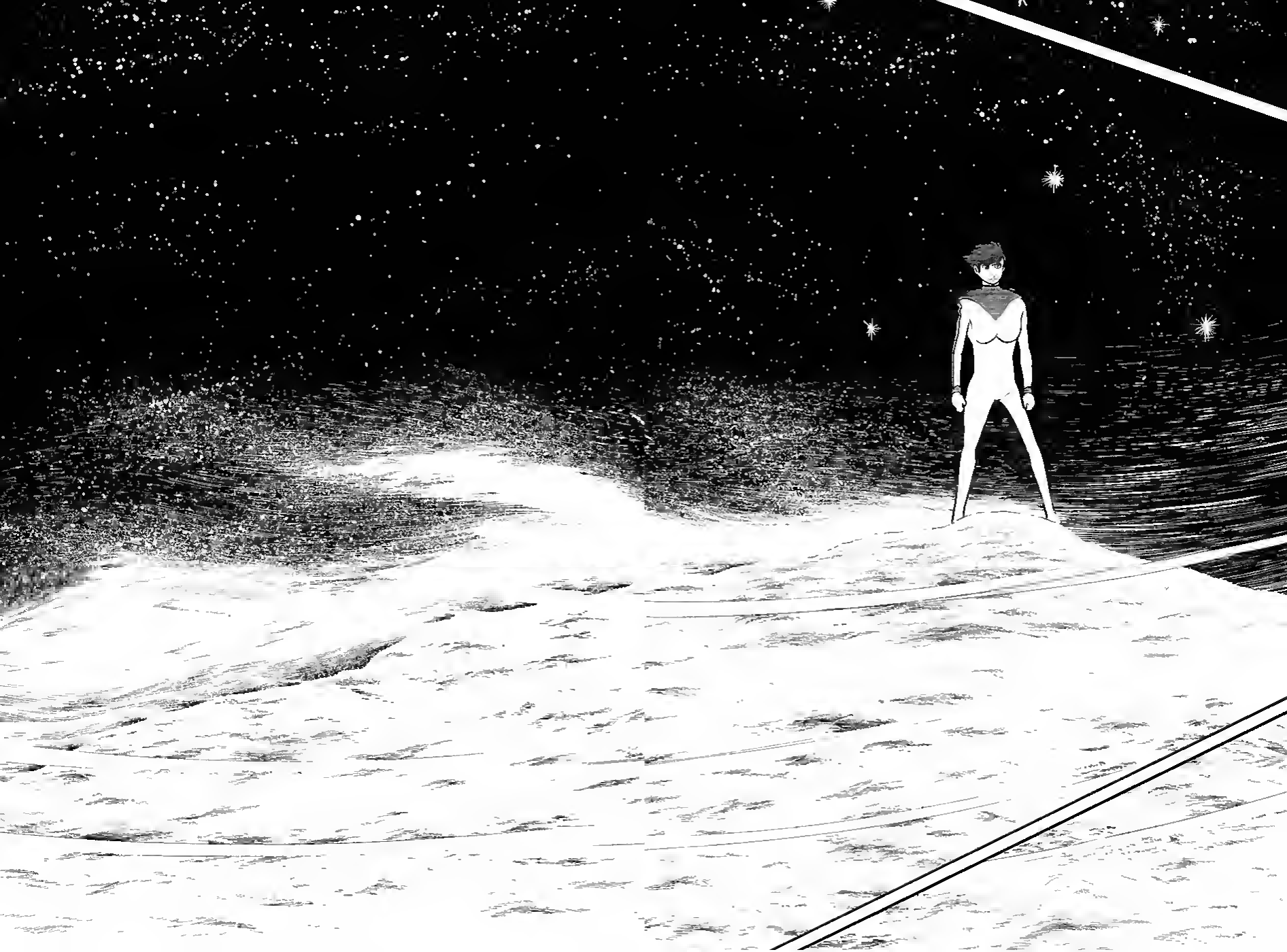

...squandered their gifts to lead lives of onlookers, never to mingle with the other intelligent species.
The dogs...
They were too lazy...
...to move forward...
...were lacking in many things...
Their survival instincts were misused...
It was humans' ability to understand that awakened the consciousness of other living beings.
...and spurred them to unite.
The role of ruler is returning to humanity.
It is returning to you, Ryu.
"GOD"? ARE YOU...
...DO YOU WANT?
WHAT...
DO...?
WHAT DID I...
BUT WHAT DID...

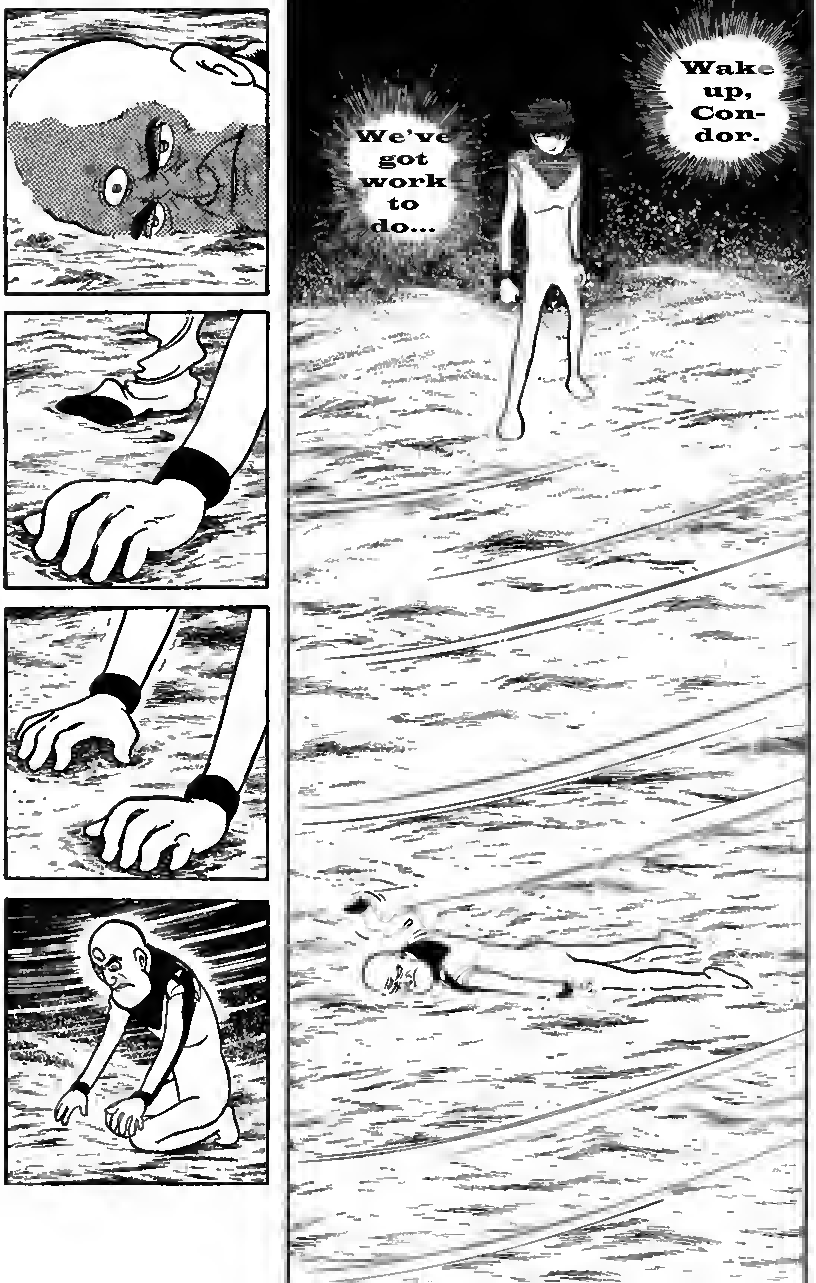
WHO
ARE
YOU
AND
WHAT
DO
YOU
WANT
?
I
AM
WHY
I?
AM
WHO
I?
WHAT
...
HERE
?
WE
ARE
WHY
DO
?
I
AND
YOU
DO
WHAT
?
I
AM
WHY
I?
AM
WHO
YOU
ARE
WHO
WHAT
!?
WH...
I AM AN ELECTRON...
I AM A MOLECULE...
I AM AN ATOM...
I AM A CELL...
I AM A HUMAN...
I AM WATER...
I AM A CLOUD...
I AM THE GROUND...
I AM THE PLANET EARTH...
I AM A STAR...
I AM SPACE...
I AM CONSCIENCE.
You are an electron...
You are a molecule...
You are an atom...
You are a cell...
You are a human...
You are water...
You are a cloud...
You are the ground...
You are the planet Earth...
You are a star...
You are space...
You are conscience.

Just as your body is made of countless cells, molecules and atoms, the universe is made of countless stars, galaxies and nebulae. Just as the cells in your body are alive, the stars in the universe are alive.
Men like you who have a new consciousness shall have the same consciousness of the Earth and the Sun, and then merge with other consciousnesses that exist in the universe. Then, the universe itself will be transformed into a new entity with a new consciousness.
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING !?


There exists only one path in which you can move forward: Encourage others to be like you. Form with them [illegible] consciousness of planet Earth. And finally merge with me.
You are Ryu.
I am Ryu.
I am you.
When many Ryu [illegible] into a gigantic consciousness, the entire universe will become Ryu.

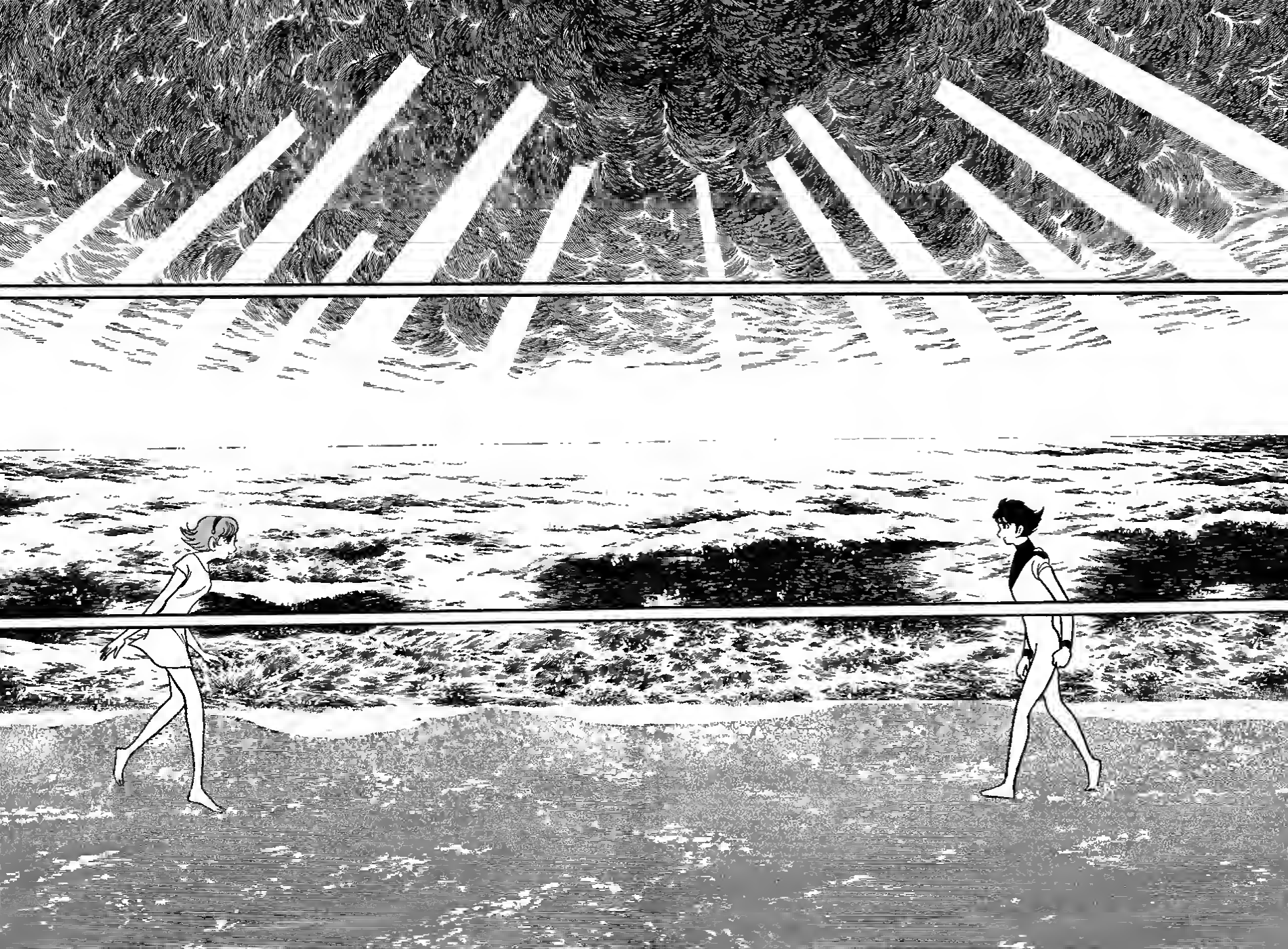
ヒュウウ
ウウウ…
オオ…
オォ…

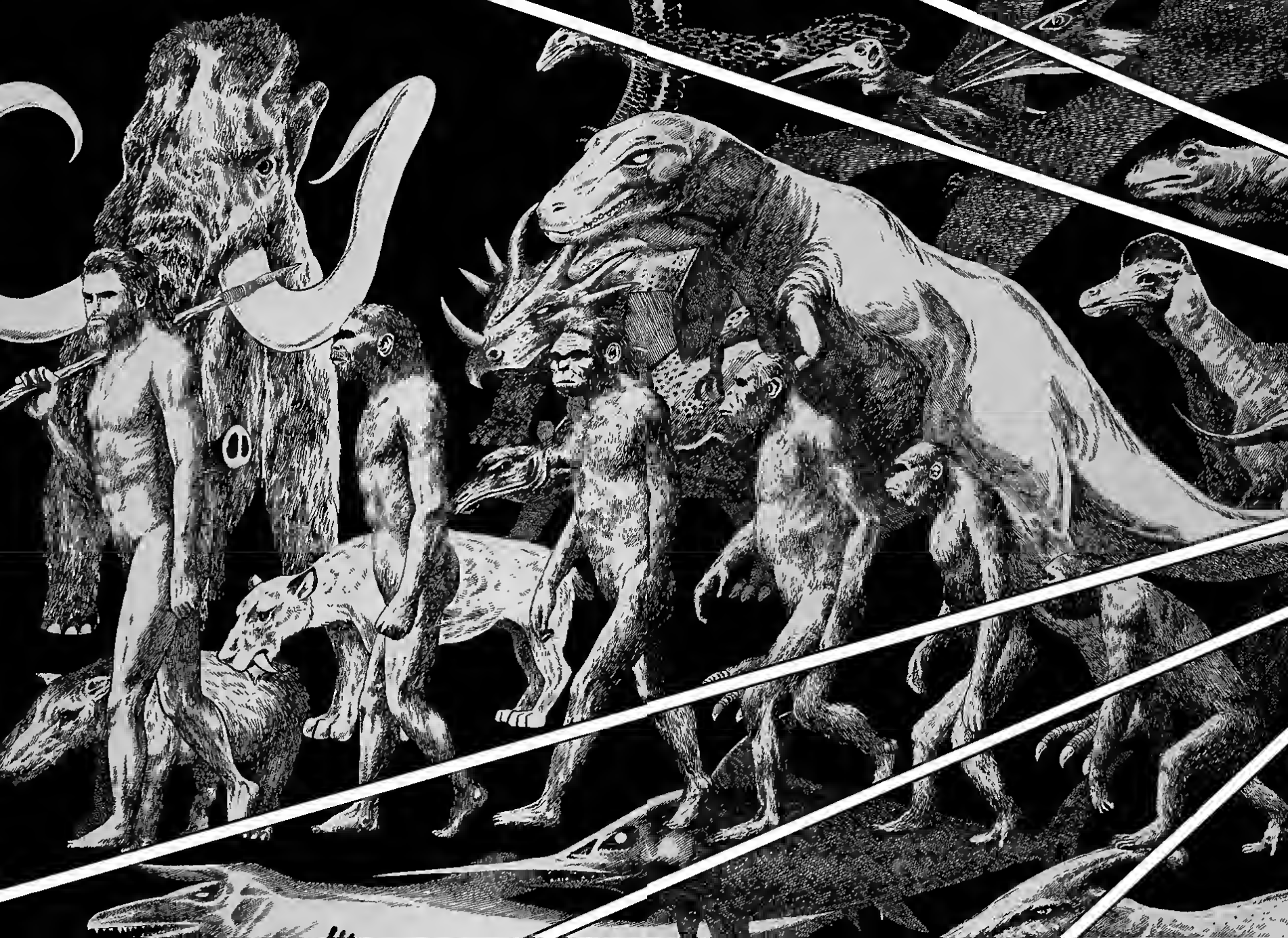



Wake up, Condor.
We've got work to do...

You understand? You are me, Condor.
I am Maria, and Maria is the Earth.
We'll join the others, and create a new Earth.

What unites us, what saves us from extermination and makes us better... it's nothing more than the power of love!





The Way of Ryu
リュウの道 ―完―
The End

石ノ森章太郎萬画大全集

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